Wednesday, May 19, 2010 | 7 sections / Vol. 35 / No. 168 | P18

Thai gov't rejects talks with protesters

BANGKOK—THE THAI GOVERNMENT on Tuesday rejected a proposal for peace talks with leaders of the Red Shirt protesters to end the deadly mayhem gripping Bangkok, saying negotiations cannot start until the protesters disperse.

As talks unraveled, fighting erupted again in the Din Daeng district north of a central Bangkok shopping area occupied for six weeks by protesters seeking to topple Prime Minister Abhisit Vejjajiva, who they accuse of subverting democracy.

THAI/A20

Ayala group bags $852-M BPO deal BUSINESS/B1

Kobe torches Suns on one good knee SPORTS/A23

NPA frees Surigao Sur mayor, aides ACROSS/A17

Chinese appliance tycoon jailed for 14 years WORLD/A27

PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER
BALANCED NEWS · FEARLESS VIEWS

12,000 watch concert for Maguindanao dead

By Pachelo Concepcion, in Manila and Jeoffrey Maitem, in Cotabato City

IT WAS LIKE PICKING ON A RAW WOUND, except that the pain was cathartic.

A crowd numbering more than 12,000 wound lustily and thankful at the same

11,000/A10

LAST DAYS OF MAY As summer winds down, children frolic in Water Balls at Manila Ocean Park. The pool will soon be opened to the public.

Fraud tales grow taller

But PPCRV sees few discrepancies in vote count

By Leila B. Salaverria

AS WINNERS CELEBRATE, TALES of electoral fraud seem to get wilder.

The latest twist comes from a masked, bespectacled man alleging to a video presentation during a columnist's forum, that he was involved in vote-padding and vote-shaving to benefit the current front-runners in the presidential and vice presidential races.

The witness said the votes of administration party standard-bearer Gilbert Teodoro, Partido ng Masang Pilipino's Joseph Estrada and Bangon Pilipinas' Bro. Eli Villanueva were shaved to benefit Aquino, or padded, referring to Liberal Party's Benigno Aquino III.

Aquino and Jejomar Binay Estrada's running mate, are leading tallies of the May 10 automated elections so far released by the Commission on Elections (Comelec).

The Parish Pastoral Council for Responsible Voting (PPCRV), the Comelec's citizens' arm, yesterday described as "negligible" discrepancies between electronically transmitted election results and election returns that its volunteers had manually examined.

PPCRV spokesperson Ana de Villa-Ringson told reporters that the difference of 0.0006 was less than 1-percentage point, an indication of the accuracy of the electronic count.

FRAUD/A15

WHEW! JUST MADE IT Sen. Manuel Lapid, 11th in the senatorial race, steps up just before Sen. Sergio Osmeña III and Teofisto Guingona III are proclaimed the last three winners in the Senate's "Magic 12."

BINAY VS ROXAS

Veep winner known next week

By Kristine L. Alave and Tarra Quismundo

THE PUBLIC MAY HAVE TO WAIT UNTIL next week to know the official winner in the vice presidential race, although Makati Mayor Jejomar Binay is leading in the unofficial results released by the Commission on Elections (Comelec).

Binay is leading Sen. Manuel Roxas II in the parallel count by the Parish Pastoral Council for Responsible Voting (PPCRV), a Comelec-accredited citizens' arm for the May 10 elections.

Comelec spokesperson James Jimenez advised those clamoring for the release of

VEEP/A6

Serge O, Lito, TG take last Senate seats

By Kristine L. Alave and Philip C. Tubeza

THE LAST THREE OF THE 12 winning senatorial candidates were proclaimed yesterday by the Commission on Elections (Comelec) sitting as the national board of canvassers.

Sergio Osmeña III, a former senator who ran as an independent in the May 10 elections, placed 10th in the race. Reelectionist Sen. Manuel "Lito" Lapid and former Rep. Teofisto Guingona III placed 11th and 12th.

Only Guingona of the Liberal Party (LP) and Lapid of Lakas-Kampi-CMD and their families were present at the proclamation ceremony presided over by Comelec Chair Jose Melo.

SERGE/A6

LUCKY 13TH! Hopes for LP senatorial bet Risa Hontiveros

Gordon still couldn't take it he got only 450,000 votes

By Cathy Yamsuan

A WEEK AFTER THE ELECTIONS, AN INCREDulous Sen. Richard Gordon still could not believe he got less than half a million votes in his run for president.

But he would do it all over again if given the chance, even with the knowledge that he would lose again.

GORDON/A20

GRIEVING Winning presidential candidate Benigno Aquino III and his running mate Manuel Roxas candidate with the widow of Quezon Gov. Rafael Nantes, who died in Monday's helicopter crash in Lucena City.

New Chief Justice goes on media blitz

By Dona Z. Pazzibugan

IN A MEDIA BLITZ MAGISTRATES are not exactly known for indulging in, Chief Justice Renato Corona yesterday served notice to Benigno "Noynoy" Aquino III that the Supreme Court was not his enemy, and thirsted a job at the incoming leader.

"I am not starting on the wrong foot. Somebody else is," Corona said in one of a series of radio-television interviews he gave on Tuesday a day after President Macapagal-Arroyo installed him in office. He asked the public to give him a chance to prove that the high tribunal would not be an "Sarayo Court."

While the Supreme Court is now packed with Arroyo appointees, Corona denied that the court would automatically give Aquino a hard time.

Apparently referring to Aquino, Corona said in Filipino

NEW CHIEF/A1

Marcelo defends The Firm, denies raps

By Philip C. Tubeza

FORMER SOLICITOR GENERAL Francisco Chavez's allegations that The Firm was trying to make a comeback with the advent of another Aquino administration were off the mark, former Ombudsman Simeon Marcelo yesterday said.

The Firm (known as the Villaraza Cruz Marcelo & Angeles law office) was formerly associated with the First Couple.

Marcelo, a partner at The Firm, said Chavez was "fed wrong information" when he claimed that the law office engaged in "influence-peddling" and "illegal transactions," and that it was against the appointment of Chief Justice Renato Corona because it was rooting

MARCELO/A20

WEATHER FORECAST

Second
FRONTPAGE

6/49 24 29 | 19 30 | 18 31
SUERTRES 9 6 6 | 2 3 7 | 0 3 0
SIL DIGIT 2 3 8 2 0 1
4-D LUZ-VIS-MIN 7 15 16 23 25 26
P21,635,654.60
SUPER LOTTO 6/49 22 24 35 41 44 47
P29,887,596.00

Erap defends Noy on Cabinet

Says there's nothing wrong with retaining competent GMA execs

By Christine F. Esguerra and TJ Burgonio

THE ONLY PHILIPPINE PRESIDENT TO BE OUSTED AND CRIMINally convicted for corruption has plenty of advice for the country's likely new president, front-runner Sen. Benigno Aquino III.

Deposed President Joseph Estrada, who is still contesting the unofficial results of the presidential race, said there was nothing wrong with Aquino retaining the services of officials serving in President Macapagal-Arroyo's Cabinet.

"There are the people for trusts. It's a matter of trusting the people around you. In my case, when I got my Cabinet members, I use to it that first, their integrity is unquestionable. Competence is No. 2," said Estrada, who was convicted for plunder but was immediately pardoned by Ms Arroyo.

Estrada did not agree with criticism that Aquino was being presumptuous for setting up a search committee for prospective members of his government.

"There's nothing wrong with being prepared, to use his terms. The job will be difficult because you'll have to think of several competent people in the Cabinet," he said.

"The president-all-aquino more than a million people...he has to prepare people for important positions," Estrada added.

Aquino's campaign included former Arroyo Cabinet members Jim Cornelio Sotelino, former social welfare secretary Florencio Abad, former education secretary, and election Gen. former defense secretary.

Ridiculating a statement that Aquino is said to be planning to retain some members of the Arroyo Cabinet.

"We'll take it again as a good gesture that the next president will be a uniting president. The new president will be a healing president, and we are praying that the next president of the Republic of the Philippines will be a forgiving president," said deputy presidential spokesperson Rightie Peryam.

Search committee

Liberal Party spokesperson, Rep. Lorenzo "Erlando III...said Aquino may retain some members of the Arroyo Cabinet although this would depend on what the search committee decides.

Aquino has indicated that Soliman would return to the post she quit with other key officials in July 2005 during the "Hello Garci" scandal that set off calls for ex-Comelec to resign.

Perayan said he agreed with the move of reappointing incumbent officials as being above "partisan politics."

"I would presume everybody else is more than willing to cooperate with the new administration, it will always be of course an honor to serve the government," he said.

Perayan also said that it was up to Armed Forces Chief Gen. Delfin Bangit and Philippine National Police Director General Jesus Verzosa to decide whether to tender their resignation to the incoming president.

"We can say that the institutions stay belong to are not political in nature, but part of their concern and I believe that they know better what to do when the right time comes," he said.

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Ban 'Mr. Noted' in nat'l canvass, Pimentel urges

By Michael Lim Ubac

NO MORE 'MR. NOTED' PLEASE.

Senate Minority Leader Aquilino Pimentel Jr. yesterday urged his colleagues in Congress to immediately address allegations of electoral fraud instead of dismissing complaints with the usual 'noted,' as was done in the 2004 election canvass.

Both chambers of Congress convene next Monday in joint session as the National Board of Canvassers.

In a phone interview, Pimentel said he would vote no if the allegations of fraud would be properly addressed by the Senate and House of Representatives, and not summarily dismissed with a plain "noted."

Asked if he would take the floor to ban the use of the word "noted" during the national canvass, Pimentel curtly said: "We should not only ban 'noted.' The one using that word should be called to Malacañan, wherever it is."

In the controversial 2004 canvassing of presidential and vice presidential candidates, the mother "Mr. Noted" were to Sen. Francis Pangilinan, then co-chair of the joint congressional committee, who said the word "noted" repeatedly whenever objections were raised by the opposition to prevent disturbances in the Cebu Coliseum.

At the time, Pangilinan was a close ally of President Macapagal-Arroyo, who had just won a fresh six-year mandate against the late actor Fernando Poe Jr.

Pangilinan later unsuccessfully, joining calls for the resignation of President Arroyo following revelations that the president had called up an election official at the height of the national canvass. This is evident in the nation's memory as the "Hello, Garci" wiretapping scandal.

Just doing his job

When confronted about this wishful mention in an earlier interview, Pangilinan replied: "Mr. Noted? Well, diumin 'yun (it goes with the territory). He had to do out work there, and we've been able to explain this quite a number of times in the past. What we decided there, and what we did there, we did with only one thing in mind—the Constitution, and the rule of law."

At that time, said Pangilinan, the alleged wiretapped conversation between President Arroyo and an election official presumed to be Virgilio Garcillano had not yet surfaced. Arroyo later apologized for calling the election official but denied that references in the conversation to a one million vote lead is doubted that she cheated.

Well if Senate talked with the president now during the 30 days of the canvassing, and I really had nothing, no knowledge whatsoever of what was happening in parts of the country, fill I did was canvass the votes," Pangilinan added.

Planned recount

Pimentel pushed for an "appropriate" manual recount by the Commission on Elections (Comelec) "to assuage growing public anxiety over reported election cheating" before the final canvass.

"Honestly done, it would dispel the election protests that could derail the nation," he said.

He said those candidates for president and vice president who claim to have been cheated should be prepared to present credible evidence so that Congress could give due course to their complaints.

More OFWs flee to Jeddah flyover

By Jerome Aning

A GROUP OF DISpersed, stranded overseas Filipino workers, some with children in tow, have again sought shelter by installing themselves in the flyover in Jeddah, Saudi Arabia, in order to get the attention of Philippine diplomatic and labor officials.

Migrante Bikisnet, an OFW alliance in the Middle East, said in chapter in Jeddah had received requests for assistance from the 22 OFWs, mostly women, who have taken shelter under the Khawlani Bridge in Jeddah.

The Khawlani Bridge has become a makeshift "refugee camp" for stranded migrant workers in search of redress but complain who hope that the local immigration police, the Jawazat, would apprehend them and repatriate them to their home countries.

The Riyadh-based Migrante Bikisnet regional coordinator Atty. Leonard Monteagudo, called on the Philippine consulate in Jeddah to take charge of the OFWs, saying that being under the flyover was not safe, particularly for the children.

He said that in the fourth quarter of 2009, the number of stranded OFWs living under the bridge had surged to 300. This prompted the Philippine Overseas Labor Office (POLO) and the Overseas Workers Welfare Administration to rent a villa near the city's Al Hajj terminal to temporarily accommodate them while the agencies were arranging for their repatriation.

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We'll be watching you, bishops tell Aquino

By Lila B. Salamatin

THE CATHOLIC CHURCH WILL not hold its peace if it sees evasion to minister personnel Penalties, chief Peregrino Aquino III, a bishop said yesterday.

It's the same token, the Church will support Aquino if he does right by the poor, said Jose Fernando (Dinopanga) Bishop-Emeritus Virginia Imerial.

"Where it comes to govern-ment programs for the common good, those that serve the poor, [he] can expect the support of the Church. But when it comes to collect matters that the Church cannot compromise, of course, we would be critical," said David in an interview over Radio Veritas.

David said he warned the next president to make poverty alleviation the top priority. He would also warn him to insti-tute policies that would keep Filipinos in the country and not have to go abroad to find work.

He also pitched for a moral renewal, for greater emphasis on Mindanao, and increased productivity in the countryside.

Other bishops also cast his off a to do list for the next Chief Executive.

Jaro Archbishop Angel Lagdameo said he expected Aquino to fulfill his campaign promise to eradicate corruption.

"It's a very big challenge and a very big promise that he made," Lagdameo said also over Radio Veritas.

Cotabato Bishop Jose Collin Bagaforo said he expected Aquino to be a unifying force for a very divided country.

The next President should, early in his term, focus on the peace and order problems plaguing Mindanao and should have a clear program for it, he said.

The bishops also gave their take on President Macapagal-Arroyo's recent travails.

David said her major accomplishment was "staying in power," followed by her ability to keep the majority in Congress loyal to her and firming up her hold on her home province of Pampanga through her connection with the Pineldas.

David said Ms Arroyo failed to win the people's trust, as shown by her low credibility rating. She was also unable to suppress scandals and have closure in the various controversies that hit her administration.

By insisting on appointing the new Chief Justice, David said she created a rift with the next President. With a report from Joey Gabieta, Inquirer Visayas

Comelec whistle-blowers ready to bare more

By Jerome Aning

THE TWO MEN WHO BLEW the whistle on the Commission on Elections' attempt to purchase 1.8 million failed security tokens for P728 million for the recent elections were presented to media yesterday by former Solicitor General Frank Chavez whose law firm is getting ready to file corruption charges against the poll officials involved.

Melchor Magdamo, a lawyer formerly on Comelec Chair Jose Melo's staff, and Dr. Arnulfo Bermano, Parish Pastoral Council for Responsible Voting (PPCRV) coordinator assigned to the Comelec, had revealed the attempt to purchase automated vote-reading blue plastic folders for a high-PSBC mark, when disruptive simple folders would have sufficed.

Magdamo had e-mailed details of the folder deal to Serrano in March. In April, Bermano wrote Comelec Law head Fernando Raflaan to express the deal.

Magdamo has since quit the Comelec, citing threats to his life. The Comelec quickly canceled the purchase and ordered an investigation which took place in April.

Magdamo and Serrano were joined at the press conference in Makati City by another potential witness, Ernesto del Rosario, former head of the Comelec's information technology department.

Chavez said his law firm was in the process of finalizing Del Rosario's sworn statement – to be released "in due time" – which would detail other anomalies in the automated election system.

Del Rosario, a member of the technical working group that helped draft the Automated Election System Law, said growing doubt about the accuracy of the vote count after the compact flash cards in the precinct-count optical scans (PCOS) machines malfunctioned, as well as the random manual audit that is also being questioned, was the result of a "hyper-vo quality management."

Chavez said the three were ready to spill the beans about various election transactions totaling P21 billion, including the P7.1-billion contract for automation that went to the Smartmatic-Total Information Management (TIM) consortium.

Another contract, he said, was the purchase of PTA and face-worth of indelible ink.

PTA asks Sandigan to uphold lease with Marcoses

By Edson C. Tandoc Jr.

THE PHILIPPINE tourism authority has asked the Sandiganbayan anticorruption court to uphold the validity of its lease agreement with the late dictator Ferdinand Marcos's 637-hectare property in Ilocos Norte that the Presidential Commission on Good Government (PCGG) wants nullified.

In a response to a civil case filed last March by the PCGG against the PTA and the Marcos estate, the PTA insisted that the lease contract signed some 32 years ago was "valid, legal and binding."

And if the contract were to be nullified, the PTA asked the court order the Marcoses to return ever to its possession the infrastructure in the property which the PTA had built.

The PTA also asked the court to dismiss the PCGG case against it, saying its actions had all been "lawful and justified."

Last March, the PCGG asked the Sandiganbayan to void the PTA's contract and award to the state the 37-hectare property in Ilocos Norte, which the Marcoses have claimed as their own, where the so-called "Malacañang of the North" was built for hosts the Pinoy Lolo.

Aside from a declaration of nullity, the PCGG asked the court to rule that the properties belonged to the government.

Marcos entered into a lease contract in December 1970 with the then PTA general manager Fernando Teopaco covering parcels of land in Ilocos Norte.

The PTA leased the property from Marcos as the appointed owner of the land until December 2000 for a nominal fee of just P1 a year.

STILL MAYOR

Mayor Edward S. Hagedorn is proclaimed winner of his reelection bid in Puerto Princesa City in the New City Hall on May 12, two days after the national elections. Shown with Hagedorn are city Councilor Jeffrey Ms. Bonoconcepcion Marigold, Vice Mayor-elect Cecil Bayron, city education division superintendent Zarrilla Arsaga, and city prosecutor Alberto Bristol.

Noynoy asked: Free Morong 43

By Jerry E. Esplanada

CLOSE RELATIVES AND SUPPORTERS OF the Morong 43 have urged President-elect Benigno "Noynoy" Aquino III to "do a President Cory" when he assumes his post next July.

He should "free all political prisoners" including the 43 detained health workers. This is what the late President Corazon Aquino did at the start of her term in February 1986.

On Feb. 6, the health workers were arrested by a 300-member military and police team while they were attending a training seminar on respiratory care sponsored by schools.

Okoy Beltran Ballera, mother of Jane Beltran, one of the Morong 43, yesterday expressed confidence that "my daughter and her co-detainees will soon gain their freedom."

Faith in Noynoy

"My family and I have faith in the new administration. We are confident President Noynoy will use [the] dead and blood to the sufferings of the Morong 43 in the hands of the military," Ballera told the Inquirer.

Like the militant Bagong Alyansang Makabayan, the Riyadh, Saudi Arabia-based Migrante Middle East (M-ME) appealed to Aquino to "release all political detainees as a gesture of good will, [reform] extremely[ly] tainted national unity."

"Noynoy is the son of two icons of democracy. We're confident he wouldn't fail us," said M-ME regional coordinator John Leonard Monterona.

Ballera, daughter of the late labor leader and Akbayan party-list Rep. Crispin Beltran, also said she had "high hopes the country's new set of leaders would put an end to (President Macapagal-Arroyo's) reign of terror, extrajudicial killings and human rights violations."

Divide and rule

Family members of two other detainees accused the Aquino administration of "using divide-and-rule tactics to pressure not only the detainees but also their relatives."

Simone, elements of the armed forces and the Philippine National Police allowed themselves to be used by GMA against the Morong 43 and the country's other political detainees," said the same sources who requested anonymity.

One of Aquino's political allies, reelected Manila Mayor Alfredo Lim, "assured us he would lobby for the immediate release of the Morong 43," said Ballera.

Lim made the assurance "during the recent unveiling of the Bolinao shrine at Lingayang Point[Point]," she added.

Ballera disclosed that they would take part in the filing of a class suit against Mr Arroyo.

Martial law again

Outgoing Sen. Maria Ana Consuelo Santiago Madrigal, a friend of the late Sen. Ninoy, has also taken up the cudgels for the detained health workers, saying that Mr Aquino "does not recalling like it's martial law all over again."

In late February, the Morong 43 filed a complaint before the Commission on Human Rights against the AFP for their exercise and detention at Camp Capinpin in Tanay, Rizal. They included in their complaint officials including the manner by which the military arrested, detained, interrogated and allegedly tortured them.

Bayan secretary general Renato Reyes assailed the military for allegedly violating the newly signed Republic Act 9745, or the Anti-Torture Law.

Upon the request of the Morong 43's relatives, the Supreme Court issued a writ of habeas corpus, requiring the AFP to present the detainees before the Court of Appeals and justify their continued detention.

Military and police authorities have repeatedly dismissed the allegations against them as "purely propaganda" aimed to discrediting the supposedly anti-insurgency operation they carried out in Morong town.

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Corrections

IN THE MAY 13 ISSUE, a front-page sidebar misspelled the name of a party-list group. The group's name is in the Bisdak—not the Bikol. The same mistake appeared in an across-the-Nation headline and story... Pako Bikol sees easy win in elections"—on Page A13, of the same issue.

IN THE MAY 16 ISSUE, Juan Mercado's "Viewpoint" column on Page A12 of the Opinion section—"End of the beginning"—misstated the name of a senatorial candidate. The candidate's name is Pilar Nieto (not as Nieto Enriquez-Enriquez—not Nieto Enriquez-Enriquez).

IN THE MAY 16 ISSUE, a front-page article—"Comelec told to speed up tabulation of poll results"—misspelled the surname of a canvasser of Kontra Daya. The canvasser's name is Grace Glenson Cruz Lucero—not Lucerno.

IN THE MAY 17 ISSUE, a caption on Page B4 of the Luzon-ing section misspelled the surname of a professor. The professor's name is Chari Cruz Lucero—not Lucerio.

Readers may send their reports for correction of factual errors in writing to the Data Bank, Philippine Daily Inquirer, 888 Building, Chino Roces Avenue corner Monetary Street, Makati City, fax this (897-4193/96), e-mail (info@inquirer.com.ph), or call the Inquirer Circulation Department at 896-6000 local 2100. Corrections should be published in the next issue for the Philippine e-mail edition (newsinfo@philippine.inquirer.net) or fax this (897-4193/96), care The Publisher. By phone: number is 897-6000 local 2100.

RECONCILIATION Leading presidential candidate Benigno "Noynoy" Aquino is flanked by (ex-)former administrator—Quezon Gov. Rafly Nantes (right) and Congressman-elect Proxy Alcala—in a reconciliation meeting on Friday, three days before the helicopter crash that killed Nantes and three others in Lucena City. AP/FOR/MB

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Quezon mourns death of governor

LUCENA CITY—POLITICIANS, GOVERNment employees and thousands of people queued up since dawn yesterday to view the sealed casket of Quezon Gov. Rafael Nantes at the Quezon Convention Center here as the provincial mourned the tragic death of their chief executive.

"I have to see Governor Nantes even in his coffin. I want to thank him for all the goodness he gave to us, the ordinary people," said Dhexie Saad, a former beauty queen who said he took the first bus to Lucena at dawn yesterday.

"My wife wanted to come with me but we had enough money to pay for only one fare. My family will observe the traditional nine days of prayers for the governor," Saad said.

Elmer Saamedre, a Bokaysan Dona Pilosopo, said he went to the venue to extend his condolences to Nantes' family.

"I voted for him in 2007. He lost in the last election because he was cheated and became a victim of black propaganda," he said.

Sealed caskets

Nantes' mayoon outfit was placed just below the stage beneath a huge poster of the governor. The caskets of his two security escorts and pilot who all perished with him were placed beside that of Nantes'.

All five caskets were sealed at the bodies were cleared beyond recognition. Two policemen stood at attention following Nantes' casket.

At the Mass held early yesterday at the city's dome-shaped covered basketball court, mourners wept when a video recording was played of the speech that Nantes had delivered at the flag-raising ceremony on Monday just a few hours before the helicopter crash that killed him.

"I feel sad that I will soon be leaving you," said Nantes, who lost his reelection bid on May 10.

Farewell message

After his farewell message, the late governor was seen hugging and shaking hands with the provincial government's employees.

Politicians, winners and losers in the last election, also lined up to view Nantes' sealed casket.

Incumbent Candelaria Mayor Ferdinand Mulleoung described Nantes as a "workaholic governor."

Sen. Benigno Aquino III, the likely presidentee-elect, led the Liberal Party delegation that accompanied the funeral home to the convention center.

Aquino was with his running mate Sen. Manuel Roxas, LP campaign manager Florencio Abad, and losing senatorial candidate Prescus Acosta.

Quezon Representatives Lorenzo Tañada III and Proceso Alcala, of the Liberal Party, who both supported Nantes' opponent David Suarez in the last election, also showed up.

Alcala was accompanied by his son, the new congressman-elect Jerry Alcala.

In his Facebook page, the young Alcala said his father and Nantes "reconciled" last Friday at a party meeting in Hacienda Luisita in Tarlac.

Alleged drug links

In his replayed speech, Nantes blasted his electoral defeat in the false reports that appeared in several broadsheets and tabloids linking him and Aquino to an illegal drug syndicate.

He denied allegations that he was a member of a drug syndicate that gave P5 billion to the Aquino campaign.

Citing a certification from the Presidential Anti-Smuggling Group, the late governor refuted the news reports that ONSC operatives raided Nantes' husband off the town of Infanta and overthrew upon a supported drug transshipment and manufacturing base.

On May 11, 2006, then Interior Secretary Ronaldo Puno and then Philippine Drug Enforcement Agency chief Anselmo Avenido Jr. announced that their agents had raided the island to search of reported drug dealer Aniceto Ang on May 6.

However, Avenido clarified that the raiders did not find any chemicals or drugs used in the manufacture of shabu on the island.

Nantes and five others died when their private helicopter crashed on Monday afternoon in a subdivision in the outskirts of Lucena City a few minutes after taking off from the athletic field of the Quezon National High School.

Investigators found two burned pistols and bundles of undetonated cash inside the wreckage of the chopper. Delfin F. Mallari Jr., Inquirer Southern Luzon

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Stray PCOS go to Senate

By Christine O. Avendaño

THE 60 CONTROversial precinct count optical scan (PCOS) machines that were stored in a house in Antipolo by a Smartmatic technician were ordered sealed to arrive last night at the Senate for safekeeping.

Senate President Juan Ponce Enrile was expected to receive the PCOS machines that would be turned over by personnel of the Commission on Elections (Comelec).

Enrile said in a privilege speech that he decided to have the Comelec bring the PCOS machines to the Senate.

"We are going to be the custodians of the PCOS machines," he said.

Keep savings, investments at home, Noli urges OFWs

By Cynthia D. Balana

VICE PRESIDENT NOLI DE CASTRO TUESDAY urged Filipinos abroad to put their savings and investment instruments at home in a campaign streamed via the Internet using Skype and Yahoo Messenger computer programs.

Speaking before a gathering of Filipino members at the Philippine consulate general in Shanghai, De Castro stressed the importance of "saving for the rainy days" and investing in the government-guaranteed programs, including the Pag-IBIG savings program.

The event, called the Financial Literacy Briefing and Orientation on the Pag-IBIG Fund Programs, followed De Castro's speech in the Information and Communications Technology (ICT) and Urban Development Forum in Ningbo, China where he noted the recent automated elections as an example of how technology contributed to strengthening democratic institutions.

The vice president said they should consider not just savings in choosing where to place their money, but also how safe the investment is, and when the money is being used.

He said the Pag-IBIG Fund's savings scheme, which is now mandatory for OFWs, is a form of high-yield, low-risk investment that benefits its members through small dividends and housing loans.

He also said the fund declared a dividend rate of 5 percent for 2009, "the highest dividend rate given by Pag-IBIG and better than what you can get from other deposit instruments."

THE DAILY GOSPEL

Wednesday, May 19, 2010
7th Week of Easter

1st Reading: Acts 20:28-38
Gospel: Jn 17:11b-19

Jesus prayed, "I am no longer in the world, but they are in the world when I am going to you. Holy Father, keep them in your name that you have given me, so that they may be one, just as we are. When I was with them, I kept them safe in your name, and not one was lost except the one who was already lost, and in this the Scripture was fulfilled. But now I am coming to you and I have these things in the world that my joy may be complete in them. I have given them your word and the world has hated them because they are not of the world, just as I am not of the world. I do not ask you to take them out of the world but I do ask you to keep them safe from the evil one."

"They are not of the world, just as I am not of the world; consecrate them in the truth... your word is truth."

"I have sent them into the world as you sent me into the world, and for them I do consecrate myself, so that they too may be consecrated in truth."

Commentary:

"I do not ask you to take them out of the world but I do ask you to keep them safe from the evil one."

"Still me, Jesus One," the disciple said, "Should I sell my business and go into a monastery?"

And the Holy Ghost answered,

"No. Keep your business that go into your heart."

Keep God must be the center of our lives

wherever we are.

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Serge O, Lito, TG take last Senate seats

From page A1

As much as 90 percent of the certificates of canvass from the provinces has been canvassed by the Comelec a week after the country's first automated elections.

The votes yet to be canvassed will no longer affect the standing of the last three winners, the Comelec said.

Ormoc's received 11,581,854 votes; Lapid, 18,977,645; and the son and namesake of former Vice President Teofisto Guingona, 16,300,895.

Hidalgona, a non-term congressman from Bukidnon, received 1.1 million votes more than the 13th placer, Akbayan Rep. Risa Hontiveros. Both of them were part of the LP senatorial ticket.

"It's a matter of judging out [Hontiveros] ... It's just unfortunate that she was not included. Among the 12 winners[,] that our fight continues," Guingona said.

13th winner?

But all is not lost for Hontiveros, who said she was waiting for the Comelec to decide whether to proclaim a 13th senator to fill the Senate post that TG's standard-bearer Benigno Aquino III, the likely winner to be presidential race, would be vacating.

"On the question of the proclamation of a 13th senator, it is an interesting legal question that should promptly be brought to the proper body for answers and to set a precedent for such an incident, should it ever again," Hontiveros said.

"So we all know, this is the first time in our country that a sitting senator sends an unexpired term out and runs for the presidency," she said.

Hontiveros said she was "thankful to our voters that although I do not belong to a well-known political family and I come from a progressive background," she made it in 13th place, or just outside the winning circle.

"Our fight will continue," Hontiveros said. "That says a lot about how our voters have changed."

"I will no longer congratulate Leon Guerrero," she said in jest of Aquino and some of her fellow LP senatorial candidates had won.

She said she was still hoping that Aquino's running mate, Sen. Manuel Roxas II, would win the vice presidency.

But she added that she would "formally and figuratively" bid the gain of not making it to the Senate race—a reference to her slipping on stage and dislocating a kneecap during the LP rally in essence on May 7 in Quezon City.

"I'll still be in braces for the next three weeks," Hontiveros said.

She said she might have tripped and fallen because she had gotten accustomed to wearing shoes with wedges during the party's campaign sorties but until flat shoes on the night of the voting in essence.

SEN. MANUEL LAPID shakes hands with Comelec Chair Jose Melo after he and Rep. Teofisto Guingona III were proclaimed winners of the senatorial race at the Commission on Elections in Intramuros, Manila. The other winner, Sergio Osmeña III, was a no-show. PHILIPPINE STAR

"I might have made the wrong move. So, speaking as a girl, we should wear high heels," she said.

'Beginning of the future'

In his speech, Melo said the proclamation of the senators a week after Election Day was a landmark occasion for the Comelec and the country.

"The proclamation of these senators elect puts in rest to all the slander and vicious attacks we all had to endure because we were saying true to our values," Melo said.

"Today importantly, for our country, today marks the beginning of the future. We have successfully broken the psychological barrier that prevented us from imagining fully automated elections in the Philippines," he said.

The Comelec said it had yet to receive the provincial certificates of canvass from Lanao del Sur, where there was a failure of elections in nine voting precincts because of security concerns.

It said there were also some areas that had yet to submit the canvassed votes.

The first nine senatorial winners were proclaimed on May 15—Ramon "Bong" Revilla Jr. of Lakas-Kampi-CMD, Jinggoy Estrada of Pwersa ng Masang Pilipino (PMP), Miriam Defensor Santiago of the Nacionalista Party (NP) and PMP; Senate President Juan Ponce Enrile (PMP), reelectee Panfilo Lacson del Sur, Senate Pro tempore Jamby Madrigal (NP), Senate President Franklin Drilon (LP), Senate President Juan Ponce Enrile (PMP), reelectee Jinggoy Estrada (NP),

Cannes best director films infomercials for Pasig

By Marisel R. Cruz

CANNES BEST DIRECTOR WINNER Brillante Mendoza has teamed up with award-winning BBC and Discovery Channel director Lara Tomaro to help save the ailing Pasig River.

Mendoza created six infomercials "to raise awareness and inspire action for the environment." The one-minute videos star actor Coco Martin, child star Zaijan "Yamiko" Jaramillo, 2009 CNN hero of the Year Efren Peñaflorida, broadcast journalist Karen Davila, TV host Kim Atienza and Mendoza himself.

Shot in the wounded and filthy community along Estero de Paco, each infomercial features a celebrity speaking on the need to save the environment.

Kapit Bisig for Pasig

Meanwhile, Australian director Tomaro created an infomercial on a "river goddess" and a mini-documentary on the newly formed community movement called "river warriors."

These infomercials are part of the Kapit Bisig Para sa Ilog Pasig (KBPP) campaign, a seven-year clean-up drive by the MMDA, GMA Foundation Inc. (MFI), the Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) through the Pasig River Rehabilitation Commission (PRRC).

Mendoza said MFI managing director Gina Lopez commissioned him for the project in May last year, shortly after he won the Best Director award in Cannes for his film, "Thirst."

Changing mindsets

"She took me to the Paco market and showed me what her group had accomplished. I agreed to do the project because I saw how passionate Gina was about saving the Pasig River," Mendoza said.

For her part, Tomaro, in a statement, said: "I'm inspired by environmental projects and believe it's important for people to value their environment... Ilog has been nature's predator... So restoring the Pasig River is a step toward restoring values as to what it is important in us—not tossing bad life."

MENDOZA

"I wanted the videos to show the current state of the river," said Mendoza. "Pinoys don't seem to think pertaining the environment is a priority. Their goal is to be able to provide food and shelter for their family. Through these videos, I hope to change the mindset of most Pinoys."

The infomercials, made possible through a $50,000 grant from the Asian Development Bank, are part of the infrastructure drive of BBPP and Manila Water Co. in support of the Pasig River Catchment Sewerage Project, which is also headed by the MDB.

Mendoza said he was also hoping to make a documentary.

Looking for funds

"But we're still looking for funding," he said. "The docu will feature those who participated in the campaign, and how lives, especially those who are living on the relocation site in Laguna, have changed after the cleanup."

Early this year, Mendoza directed a documentary on climate change titled "Bebot." The project, which was co-produced by environmentalist Sen. Loren Legarda, focused on flash floods and heavy rains that inundated the country last year.

KBPP will also publish a magazine and a children's storybook on proper waste management and tips on eating for the environment.

The KBPP infomercials will be launched on Thursday at the Power Plant Mall in Makati City, with Mendoza and Lopez as special guests.

This will coincide with the screening of Mendoza's award-winning film "Lola," which recently received awards from the 34th Fribourg International Film Festival and the 11th Las Palmas de Gran Canaria International Film Festival.

Jailers who let doc see Ampatuan in hot water

PROSECUTION LAWYERS YESTERDAY asked a Quezon City court to distrust jail officials in Camp Bagong Diwa who allowed a psychiatrist inside the cell of Maguindanao massacre suspect Zaldy Ampatuan without a court order.

In a three-page motion, assistant chief state prosecutor Richard Anthony Fadullon said allowing Ampatuan's relatives that are not covered by court orders to "remark of special treatment and privileges."

The prosecutors moved that officials of the Bureau of Jail Management and Penology (BJMP) guarding Ampatuan at the Metro Manila District Jail in Camp Bagong Diwa, Taguig City, be made to explain why they should not be cited in contempt of court.

Ampatuan, suspended governor of the Autonomous Region in Muslim Mindanao, is among 197 accused in the election-related killing of at least 57 people in Ampatuan town last November.

Shrink in jail

In his motion, Fadullon said the defense "apparently brought a psychiatrist" inside Ampatuan's cell on May 12, a day before Judge Jocelyn Solis-Reyes of Regional Trial Court Branch 221 allowed the conduct of a medical exam.

The prosecution claimed a stay-in nurse, Sindura Usompadun, and a doctor, Lovie Jeope Go-Ong, were allowed inside Ampatuan's cell.

"It is respectfully prayed that the BJMP and the lawyers of accused Ampatuan be directed to explain in writing why they should not be cited in contempt," the motion read.

"These activities by the defense inside accused Ampatuan's cell which are unauthorized by the court smack of special treatment and privileges being accorded by the BJMP-custodians," prosecutors said.

Sleepless in jail

The prosecution added that it saw no reason for Ampatuan to be subjected to an examination by a psychiatrist based on the latter's claims of sleeplessness and depression.

The prosecution also opposed the granting of a motion allowing Ampatuan to be examined by government doctors from the Philippine General Hospital and the National Center for Mental Health.

The defense had informed the court that Ampatuan would be examined by a PGH doctor in the afternoon of May 20.

Defense lawyer Nedumbertie Villanueva said he would only disclose the name of the doctor to the judge herself and asked the court to keep the medical records of Ampatuan confidential.

Right to privacy

The defense said Ampatuan's right to privacy was violated when a news report in a national daily was headlined "Zaldy Ampatuan needs a shrink."

The story was accompanied by a caricature and a cartoon which the defense said tended to speculate on Ampatuan's condition without basis.

"Shrouds Ampatuan's right to privacy and confidentiality of his medical records has been violated by media reports speculating about his state," the motion read.

The defense added: "The media circus surrounding the case has extended to speculation about Ampatuan's condition... that, without looking into the objective facts surrounding Ampatuan's condition, was highly judgmental."

Villanueva also asked the court to keep confidential Ampatuan's legal records.

Julie M. Aurelio

Fraud tales grow taller

By Jaime Laude
Inquirer Central Luzon

THROUGH FOREIGN EYES The May 10 election was a matter that concerned, according to the findings and recommendations of an ilk member foreign observers' group that were presented to Sen. Francis Escudero on Tuesday. BEN NABLO

COMMON CAUSE Losing presidential candidates Nicanor Perlas, JC de los Reyes and Sen. Jamby Madrigal, along with Rep. Augusto Syjuco, hold a press conference at the Tiffany Gym to denounce alleged cheating in the May 10 elections. Syjuco is a losing mayoralty candidate in Malolos City. ROY DOMALAN

Presidential candidate Nicanor Perlas said the election was a matter that concerned, according to the findings and recommendations of an ilk member foreign observers' group that were presented to Sen. Francis Escudero on Tuesday.

Perlas, Jesus C. de los Reyes and Sen. Jamby Madrigal, along with Rep. Augusto Syjuco, held a press conference at the Tiffany Gym to denounce alleged cheating in the May 10 elections. Syjuco is a losing mayoralty candidate in Malolos City.

Corroborative evidence

But Sen. Jamby Madrigal, a losing presidential candidate, supported the witness. "What he says corroborates all the evidence we have," she said.

Madrigal, who also has raised alleged irregularities in the country's first automated elections on May 10, dismissed as stalk out of the forum after she was asked at the mandatory for asking but to prove her claim.

The video was shown during a Manila forum by computer engineer Rolando Ilustre, who said he got it from a friend inform the witness had approached to tell his story.

The man had a "crisis of conscience," Claveria said, adding he had documentary evidence and wanted the government to conduct an investigation.

"Both parties are willing to come out in the open in the proper forum," he said.

In the leaked video, which was edited from a two-hour interview, the masked witness alleged that the cheating was carried out by switching ballots, by using preprogrammed flash cards and by tampering and altering transmissions from the counting machines.

Worse than Garci

"This is an election you can call grievous. This is worse than Garci," the man said in Pilipino, referring to allegations that Election Commissioner Virgilio Garcillano rigged the 2004 elections to favor President Macapagal-Arroyo, a charge she denied.

Claveria said Teodoro lost Pangasinan by nearly 1 million votes, while Villanueva lost 2 million to Jejomar Binay. Erectile also lost a lot, but he did not provide a figure.

The presidential candidates Loren Legarda, who has already conceded the race, supposedly lost 4 million in Namfrel's tally through manipulating. There were then transferred to Binay, according to the witness.

Presidential candidate Nicanor Perlas said the election in Antipolo City where 60 vote counting machines were earlier found to be the home of members of Smartmatic-TIM, the Comelec's automation partner, was proof of irregularities.

Perlas said his camp had opened two of the machines, and found that those had inconsistent results on May 9 and May 11, the day before and after the elections.

Odd results

The camp of Estrada also made a similar allegation, pointing out that election results from Manila carried different times.

Pimentel said he found it odd that an election return from a precinct in Mountain showed that Roxas got all but one of over 600 votes cast. The lone vote went to Makati's Binay Binay.

In Quezon, Nueva Ecija, Vice Mayor Lee de Guzman said 60 machines that had disappeared after the election showed up in the municipal hall, but the treasurer's office refused to accept them. Binay machines failed to transmit for five days after the vote in the area.

Estrada said he felt the election will with the decision not to concede defeat with field reports now coming in pointing to what he called "large-scale" cheating.

Jamming devices used

"Looking back, I think I did the right thing," he told the Inquirer in a phone interview.

Ernesto Rhoda, Estrada's campaign manager, said his camp had received reports that between 4 million and 5 million votes had been taken away from Estrada and added to Aquino.

Massachusetts was made possible by the use of "jamming devices" that allegedly blanked the transmission of results from precinct count optical scan (PCOS) machines.

He said "suborned results" were then sent to the Comelec and the PPCRV using "spurt" PCOS machines.

"It's large-scale cheating," Rhoda said, pointing out that while members of his media except elections in his San Juan bailiwick, he lost there. "They're all my enemies. They all won by a landslide. It was only Cathy lost."

Rhoda said his camp also got information that some "hackers" offered to manipulate results at P20 per vote, or P1 higher than offers to past elections.

House probe

He said his group had evidence indicating such forms of cheating and would present them before Congress during the official canvass of votes for president and vice president today.

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Ernesto Rhoda, Estrada's campaign manager, said he could be called "large-scale" cheating.

In the House of Representatives, the committee on suffrage and electoral reform is to begin today an investigation into alleged fraud as a result of poor planning flaws in the election, a member said.

Speaker Prospero Nograles, who is pushing for a mandatory manual count of at least 800 precincts, said he was disturbed that the Comelec had to recall 76,000 PCOS machines flash cards due to programming flaws less days before the elections when there were no lawyers to examine them. "Is this a coincidence?"

Moreover, Nograles said that ultimately these concerns should be addressed either by the Comelec or the House electoral tribunal.

"We will fulfill our constitutional mandate to act as the national board of canvassers for the presidential and vice presidential votes. We will not accept any less than mandate," he said.

Sen. Richard Gordon on Monday night said the supermanual count should have been completed in three days and any delay could be considered a form of cheating. The chair of the senate electoral reforms committee said that the outcome of the vice presidential race was crucial because of the

Far from perfect

"This election is far from perfect. I have been told by some operators these coming days," he said. "The count is perhaps accurate but somebody is starting to manipulate it by delaying it," Gordon said.

Undersecretary Rujulio Peruni, deputy presidential spokesperson, said it was defined from the lawmakers looked into whether Smartmatic-TIM delivered on its contract with the Comelec.

"I'd like to think that if we discover any flaw in the any of these machines, this is the right time because eventually we'll have to go back to the whole election values we have to look back and draw lessons," he said in a briefing.

Peruni said Malacañang agreed with the proposal to withhold the balance of the payment due to the Smartmatic-led consortium pending the performance. With reports from Gil C. Cabacungan Jr., Cathy Yamsuan, Norman Bordadora, Reyes Quinsaat, Ali Vigo, Christine V. Esguerra, TJ Burgonio and Pramilla A. Cortigiel, Inquirer Mindanao

12,000 watch concert for Maguindanao dead

By Jaime Laude
Inquirer Central Luzon

HEIGHT OF ANGER... Lolita Carbonilla-Ampatuan's counterpart. ROY DOMALAN

...AND REMEMBRANCE Jerry Ayuda sings against the gut thug. ROY DOMALAN

time so they listened to representatives' "Protest Broadcast 3," a benefit concert for the families of the 32 media workers killed along with 25 other people in Maguindanao in November 2009—on Monday night at the Amoranto Coliseum in Quezon City.

Incorporating elements of theater and film, the presentation opened with a remembrance of the massacre, including a showing of video footage taken from the scene of the crime and the victims' wounds. Public broadcasting manager Ayda Jimenez read the names of the victims and their dependents.

A striking lineup of musicians known for their socially conscious songs—Jose Ayuda, Joel Cabangon, Lolita Carbon, Gary Granada—proceeded to perform.

"Let's not bury everything with the dead," lamented Ayuda. "We need to shed light on the truth."

A similar message was aired yesterday in Cotabato City by Maguindanao governor-elect Esmael Mangudadatu, whose wife and five others were among the 57 people killed.

Mangudadatu said he would not rest until the masterminds and those who helped in the slaughter are identified and prosecuted.

Mangudadatu's certificate of candidacy when their convoy was waylaid by armed men allegedly led by Datu Unsay Mayor Andal Ampatuan Jr.

According to police findings, the victims were headed to Sitio Masalay in Barangay Salman of Ampatuan town and executed there.

Their bullet-riddled bodies were discovered not after the other.

Ampatuan Jr. and a number of family members have since been arrested, detained and charged with multiple counts of murder.

Conflict and bloodshed

In the concert Ayuda played an ominous-sounding cover of actor's "Rules," the full lyrics adding clarity to the song's title

of evidence in Mindanao.

He followed it up with his own composition, "Pilipino Ito," whose agitated rhythms heightened a similar theme of conflict and bloodshed.

Granada offered two of his own songs, "Bayanna," a tribute to activism, and "Bahay," a protest of poverty.

The crowd roared with anger as Cabangon performed "Salvador," a song about racial inequity. Here are the song the lyrics: "Kaya ne ka Aang pro ung pawis dalo ng mga bahang ito Ito you know Ito beginning and end of this story I" video shots of poignancy amid Ampatuan. At Salvador on the screen.

Another singer, Soliver Lorenzo, first of President Macapagal-Arroyo, drew loses from the crowd while Cabangon sang the chords Pinoy rock song "Tao."

He recited his set with "Ako ay Isang Mahalang Pilipino," as he asked the crowd to rise and pledge to behave according to the lyrics of racial pride.

Carbon reached the audience with her songs, her own as well as those of her former group, Asin.

"Bulalakaw" and "Tayo ang Pag-asa ng Bayan," undoubtedly said in the throng cheered in appreciation of the lyrics of "Aking Isa," "Corazon," "Dyok," "Magulang" and "Mundo Ko ang Ingles."

And a five-song medley ended on Cabon dedicated "Huwag ng Pag-ibig" to all the bereaved family members.

Charity concerts

The concert was represented by Eddie Bautista, country lawmakers and UNTV, whose media officers and four news correspondents, reportedly were among those killed.

Most of the people in the audience belonged to Members Church of God International, which broadcasts programs on UNTV.

The presidential's aide, "Protest Broadcast 3," was an offshoot of the first two editions of "The Broadcast"—a daily current series for journalists spearheaded by UNTV head Daniel Razon.

Razon himself sang a few numbers and acknowledged some VIPs in the audience.

Before the show ended, he called the victims' representatives to receive the net proceeds of the concert. He also announced that the media workers' orphaned children would be granted scholarships.

A representative of Federation of Philippine Industries Inc. formally committed more than P50 million in donations for the victims' families.

The event ended on a current note, with Members Church of God Head Eliseo Soriano appearing in a live video patch from the United States, where he is on valedictating from charges of sexual assault.

Soriano unabashedly lambasted the Arroyo administration for Gloria dedicated "Huwag ng Pag-ibig" to all the bereaved family members.

He also called on "the next president," Liberal Party candidate Senator Benigno Aquino III, to put his money behind here. "Please promote Jesus ... There is something delightful your eyes will discover."

Newfound freedom

In Cotabato City, Mangudadatu said the planned memorial would "also serve as testament to the newfound freedom of the people of Maguindanao."

The governor-elect, who

New Chief Justice goes on media blitz

From page A1

"All I would like to say is the Supreme Court is not his enemy. I cannot say we will be friendly to him. But we are also not enemies."

Corona, who will head the judiciary for the next eight years, gave interviews right in the midst of three 8th CBN meetings shows to answer allegations that his appointment as head of the country's highest court had no constitutional basis and that he was beholden to Mr Arroyo.

In the past, Supreme Court justices, especially Chief Justices, have not been entirely known for giving media interviews.

Getting to know him

Corona said appearing on television would show the people "what kind of public official I am."

Mr Arroyo designated Corona as concurrent to succeed Chief Justice Reynato Puno after the high court exempted her from the constitutional ban on presidential appointments during an election campaign.

Aquino has warned he will not recognise Mr Arroyo's "midnight appointments," including that of Corona, citing the appointments ban.

"I'm not a politician. I don't like appearing before the media but ... it's a good opportunity for me, like it or not, for the public to know me. They are entitled to know what kind of public official I am," Corona said on ANC's early news program.

He said he was hoping criticisms against his appointment until his nomination to Mr Arroyo subside.

"That does not bother me. I will have eight years to prove many things about myself and what I can do for country," he said.

Then he said it was not he but "somebody else"—a veiled reference to Aquino—who was starting on the wrong foot.

Not pro-Arroyo

Corona also appeared to the media at "Umagang Kay Ganda" and ANC's "Dateline Dos."

In the afternoon, he allowed ABS-CBN and GMA 7 reporters and cameramen to get footage of his Supreme Court office. Then he gave a minute interview from the Supreme Court to CBN. 7's evening newscast "24 Oras."

Asked on GMA about claims that he was pro-Arroyo, Corona said, "That is not true." He said such claims could be part of a new war against him.

"I would like to assure you that I will be free fighting for the independent Supreme Court," he said.

Oil before barangay chair

Once ABS-CBN, Corona said he refused in his interview he affected by Aquino's plan to work him and take his oath before a barangay captain in celebration. His opposition to his appointment.

"It's legal. I don't speculate on what the representations are going to be. If he takes his oath before a barangay captain I'm sure he will have by that time thought about it well and tonight sound. It's all right with me," he said.

Asked if he would require to be "an instrument of change," he said it was a double-edged question he'd collect not answer.

"I might be forced to make a political statement which I don't want to do," he said.

He also refused to comment when asked if he believed an appointment from the outgoing the Mr Arroyo was a "kiss of death."

"No political statements please," begged all Corona, who was Mr Arroyo's chief of staff and spokesperson before he was appointed to the Supreme Court in 2002.

Corona wife

Corona disclosed that he had asked his wife Maria Cristina to resign as head of the Zuhai Hay Management Corp. (ZHC) by June 30 to prevent further questions about his judicial independence.

The ZHC is a subsidiary of the government-controlled Bases Conversion and Development Authority, which oversees the Subic Bay Special Economic Zone.

He said his wife was not running any money from her job and added that he would rather have her not take weekly trips to Angeles City anymore.

Good bar chemistry

At least one senator thinks that a president where the President and the Chief Justice are not exactly on the friendliest of terms might do the country good.

"Their not being best friends may be good for the system," Sen. Panfilo Lacson said. "The check and balances system will be better if the Chief Justice is not a lapdog of the sitting President."

Estrada-ites, who helped Aquino in his election campaign, also said it was up to Aquino if he wanted to take his oath before a barangay captain.

"(Aquino) was just being consistent with his declaration before the election," Estrada said.

Up to Noynoy

Whether Aquino wants a smooth presidency will depend on how he treats the judiciary, Malacañang said.

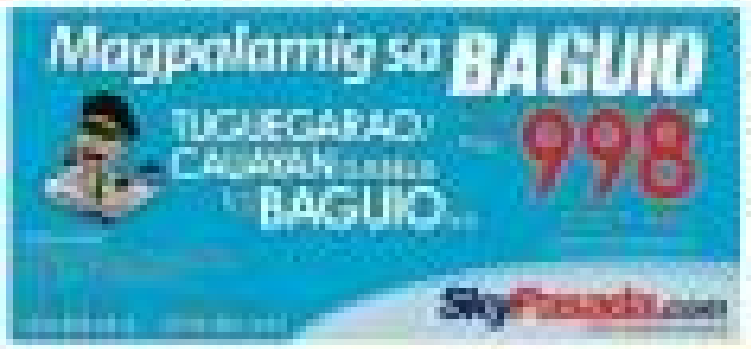
"We leave up to them how ambitious and how powerful they want their administration to be, and what political color they want to see everything," Undersecretary Rodolfo Reyes, deputy presidential spokesperson, told reporters.

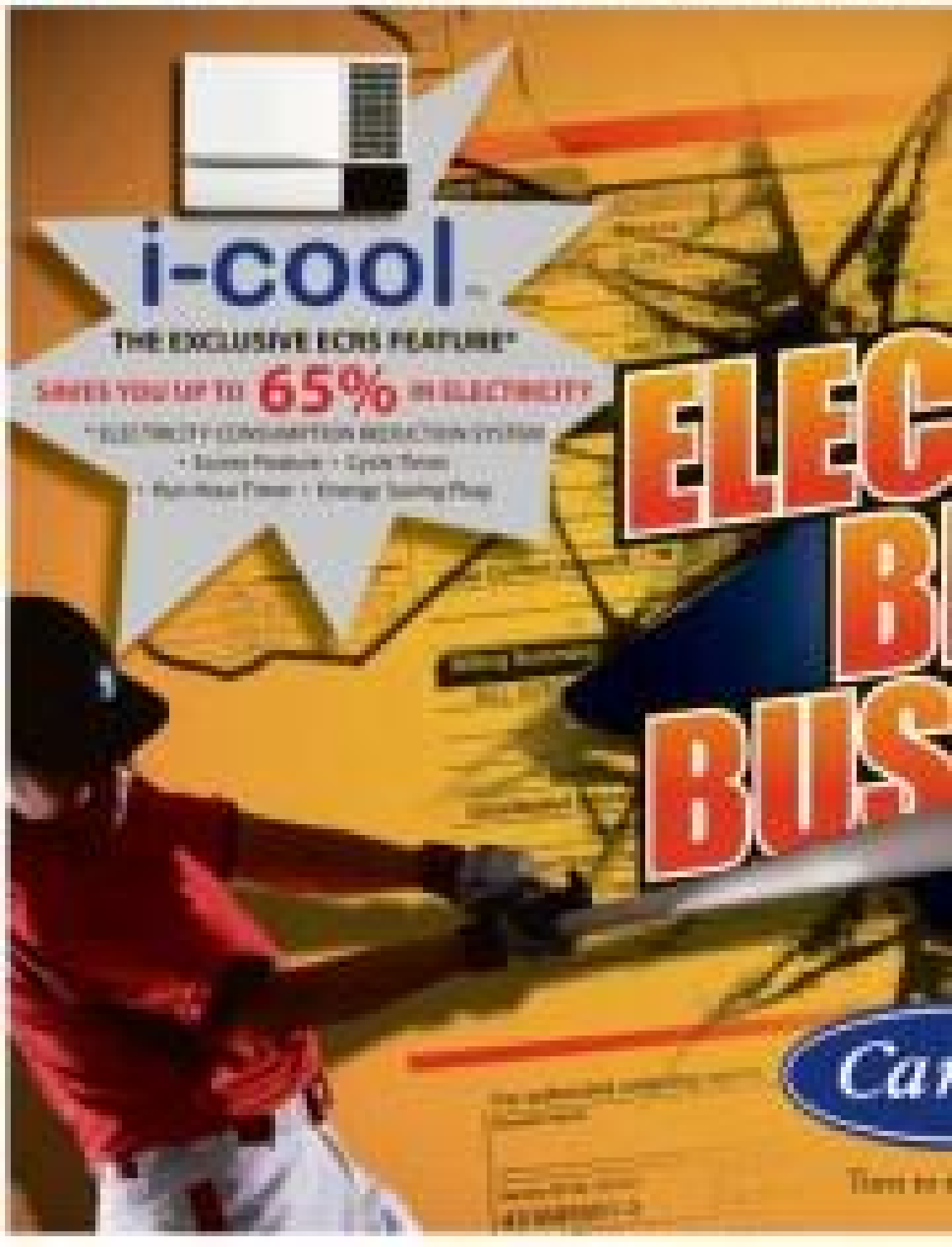
Reyes said Malacañang remained hopeful that the incoming administration would realize that everyone should follow the ruling of the high tribunal.

In the Visayas, Southern Leyte Rep. Roger Mercado urged Aquino to start his administration right by studying closely any moves he would make to deal with the Corona appointment.

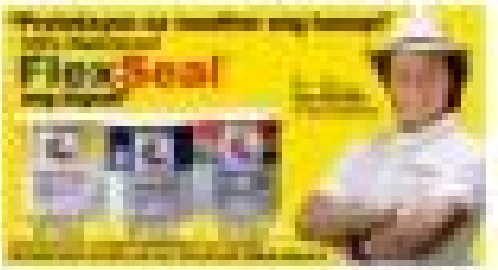
"He should ask the advice of a constitutionalist. It would be better for him to start in the right direction," Mercado told the Inquirer. "If he makes the right decision from the start, he will have the cooperation of the other justices and other people." With reports from Christine O. Avendaño and TJ Burgonio in Manila, and Jimi Arimas, Inquirer Visayas

Bets' police escorts told to return to mother units by June 9





Rains to restore Mindanao power supply soon



PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER

OPINION

Missing audit

EDITORIAL

THE ORIGINAL PLAN WAS THAT BY AROUND noon on election day, the Comelec would pick 1,100 precincts (five from each congressional district) to be manually audited, and release the information to various political parties so that they'd have time to swoop in on the affected precincts as soon as the polls closed. As it turned out, things didn't end up so neat and tidy. Chair Henrietta de Villa of the Parish Pastoral Council for Responsible Voting said that the Comelec selected the precincts late, and this, combined with the closing of precincts later than originally planned, meant that more than a few affected precincts were informed they'd be manually audited late in the day.

The result, she said, was that only a very small percentage of precincts to be manually audited attempted to do so after the polls closed. Most, she reassured the public, would do so the next day, May 11. "We only completed all the data around 9 p.m. yesterday and we're able to display 10 percent. Only completed 2 percent of those 10 percent precincts and municipal halls were able to conduct the random manual audit," she said then.

She expressed a certain measure of regret over this, resulting that part of the credibility of the process rested on the manual audit, already limited to a partial one. Delays would only prompt doubts.

Well, the doubts have emerged, and though mostly among the ranks of losing candidates and their supporters, these misgivings can only be made increasingly plausible because of the delays. Put another way, the original debate was whether automated polls should be accompanied by a full manual count of the ballots, so as to provide a 100-percent cross-check between the results transmitted by the automated counting machines and through the manual counting of ballots; while the other proposal was to abandon automated counting altogether.

In the end, the Comelec insisted on a limited sample of precincts sufficing to represent the whole, for the purpose of cross-checking the results. The integrity of that Random Manual Audit or RMA process required a supreme effort on the part of many groups—not just the Comelec's audit teams, or the PPCRV's, but the various political parties—adding a logistical dimension that is highly relevant.

Various groups are saying that has coloncide Solita Monsod, citing her own sources, were recently that the political parties were "remiss" in sending their observers to these random restaurant: in part, she suggested, because the parties "didn't seem to have a clear of the RMA's importance." This wouldn't be a problem if the Comelec and others had provided information in a timely yet comprehensive manner so that the RMA isn't a case-you-don't-see-it-now-you-do sort of situation that feeds fears of insider power.

As it is, as of May 14 the Comelec said it had found no discrepancies during its RMA: In 180 of 1,145 chastered precincts they're supposed to audit!

It needs to be added: if, in the bad old days before automation, when 325,389 voting precincts could be manually counted in 24 hours, why, over a week after our first automated elections, only 180 out of 1,145 chastered precincts—representing a statistical sampling of the 75,471 created for the May 10 polls—have been manually audited.

The best that Commissioner Gregorio Larrazabal can say is "It's difficult to say [why it's taking so long] because you have to appreciate and look at the ballots. There might be differen reasons and I don't want to speculate. We're open to any questions regarding the RMA." The overseer of the RMA effort, Commissioner Leonardo Tagle, says the Comelec's goal is to do the RMA at the rate of 300 precincts a day. Both officials suggest there are variance between the transmissions and the ballots. Florentor Moreno of the National Statistics Office, who told reporters that they had 96 audited reports and only 30 had been encoded (as of May 14), indicated the logistical feat the effort is turning out to be.

There is of course a certain burden of proof on the political parties to prove they have been pulling their own weight in this effort, which Solita Monsod suggests they have not, and which may in turn indicate the shallowness of some parties' awareness of cheating. At the same time, initial public satisfaction over the speed of the transmission—and announcement—of results can just as swiftly and completely turn to outraged disappointment, if the Comelec botches the RMA process.

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Binay wants to head DILG if he wins

As I See It

Neal H. Cruz

WINNING VICE PRESIDENTIAL CANDIDATE Jejomar Binay was a guest at last Monday's flagpole on Manila, along with Comelec spokesman James Jimenez and Ronald L. Holmes, president and managing director of Holmes Safety Bible, flying who is ahead UP's vice presidential candidate Mar Roxas by more than 800,000 votes in the Comelec and PPCRV tallies, said he doubted if the lanes could still overtake his lead.

Only less than 10 percent of the votes have to be tallied, Binay said. The UP is saying Mar is ahead in their tallies. Although, those at those tallies, don't want to press releases.

"Why is the counting taking so long?" the Comelec's Jimenez was asked. "The senate we gave so much money for automation was to make the counting faster. Now this is turning out to be as slow as the old manual counting. What did we spend all that money for?"

Jimenez replied that it was because of the lack of signals in some places so that the results from the PCOS machines could not be transmitted to the canvassing centers.

"Wouldn't it be faster to just bring the election returns physically to the canvassing centers instead of waiting indefinitely for a non-existent signal?" Jimenez was asked.

"That's being done now," Jimenez answered. "For many precincts, the election returns are available only by text. It takes a while to process."

"It has been a week since the elections. Surely they could have washed texts already even if they only walked!"

"The actual counting of poll results is suspicious," somebody said. "As in the old days, when the results were delayed, some cheating was being done. Maybe some hoses PCOS is being done now. Why are the delayed results coming only from areas where Binay's rivals, Roxas and Mindanao? When they arrive, we will be surprised that they have votes for Binay."

"You are speculating. Let us wait for the results, let us not speculate."

Pedro Isaac Ildefonso was asked if the poll results tallied with its our polls. Ildefonso replied that they did.

And the opinion polls showed that Binay's ranking was going up while the rankings of Roxas and Legarda (as well as Villar) were going down. Binay's strong showing was no surprise to us, Ildefonso said.

Binay was asked what department he would like to occupy in the Aquino Cabinet if he finally wins.

Without hesitation, the Makati mayor said he would like the Department of the Interior and Local Government. "That is my expertise," he said, "after being mayor of Makati for 23 years." Binay was first appointed officer-in-charge of Makati in 1986 by Nyoman's mother, Presidente Cory Aquino, then elected mayor for six terms that was interrupted by a one-term gap during which his wife Elenita served as mayor while he was appointed chair of the Metro Manila Development Authority (MMDA). This election, his son Jejomar Jr. was elected mayor of Makati and his daughter Abigail was elected congresswoman.

Binay said he would like to help other cities and municipalities to be more progressive, if not as progressive as Makati. He is in favor of rich cities like Makati, Quezon City and Manila leading some of the poorer provinces. Under his administration, he said, he provided them an easy way to develop the LGUs. "If the municipalities and cities are progressive, that would translate into a progressive nation," he said.

He said he has no objection to reversing the present system of allotting financial incentive Allotments (IRAs) to local governments. Under the present system, the LGUs get a percentage of the income taxes collected by the Bureau of Internal Revenue from their residents. So that rich cities like Makati and QC, which already collect a lot in real estate and business taxes, still get big slices of the IRA. On the other hand, poor municipalities that have little tax collections of their own, get only small amounts from IRA and are hard up for cash to develop and improve themselves. Under the present system, the rich LGUs get richer and the poor ones get poorer.

If the existing system is reversed, the poorer LGUs will get bigger shares of the IRA because they need them, while the richer ones will get less because they don't need them anyway.

If an LGU has too much money, it is only for its municipal and city officials to pamper. For example, Quezon City, which has too much money, gives each councilor P40 million a year in pork barrel funds. What will the councilors do with this humongous unspent pooled some of it?

(EDP: Answer: "you can't be more than Makati and other rich LGUs will follow. Also, the humongous of rich LGUs get big chunks of the IRA that the humongous officials quickly appropriate for themselves. These funds are supposed to be used for the development of the barangay and help their residents, but barangay officials are there to buy vehicles and give themselves huge allowances. A barangay captain in Makati has been sued by its homeowners' association for misappropriating and misappropriating hundreds of millions of barangay funds. Binay should be become interior secretary, and the Aquino administration should stop these abuses.

Binay was answering enough in the polls. Binay was asked what his secret was. He replied that he campaigned in the smallest towns that he could forget.

Asked if Gen. Cito Ferdinen's Nay-Bi organization helped him, Binay replied: "Yes, definitely."

Did he talk to Cito before the endorsement?

"Yes, he told me he was going to endorse me."

Did his testimony Erap know about it?

"I don't think so."

"Did you tell him?"

"No."

By the way, the PCOS machines, for which we spent more than P7 billion, are not owned by the Comelec. They were only rented from Smartmatic, Jimenez said, and they will not be used for the barangay elections this year. We will be back to manual counting.

Scars

THERE'S THE RUB

Conrado de Quiros

AFTER JOHN MCCAIN CONCEDED TO Barack Obama, Obama went out in a drowning and tearful mood—the tears, contrary to those of Senator Opo—Senator Sonny Angara. "If there's a reason our there who still doubts that America is a place where all things are possible, who still wonders if the dream of our founders is alive in our time, who still questions the power of our democracy tonight is your answer."

After Sonny Hilaz, Gibo Teodoro and Richard Gordon conceded to Sonny Aquino, Sonny went out in a gasping and grieving crowd—the first, courtesy of the "tropics" and the second, of the encounters of the dead in search of a wake by wrong turns. "Before, Mother Mar Poster will win over Jojo Binay by a landslide."

Unless he does things a little differently and soon, Sonny might end up as the Philippine version of the Dahya David Letterman and in earnest in his shows that's quite the part where he shows PDP cartoons. "There is nothing to fear but fear itself," PA saying. "Ask not what your country can do for you," and George W. saying, "Bah, I think when my father is few elected..."

What exactly is wrong about Sonny's proposition, apart from it being a fall from the sublime to the pandemonium?

Well, one, it shouldn't be drawing attention to habitues, other than as a function and self-mocking tone. Which alone shows that couldn't have been his choice of words.

Two, it's plain unfair. At the very least it's graceless. On one side, there's the leading candidate in the two-contended count—Jojo Binay, making all sorts of statements, causing locality and corporation once he is proclaimed winner, and on the other there's the victorious candidate in the presidential race repeatedly assuring it, suggesting by way of subtext, "Binay you can be my vice president." It's a gracious, even manly, or provocative, to someone who was loyal to Cory Sr. spoke at her inaugural rites, a thing he could not have done had one family member objected to it and never did anything to harm her cause.

Three, it's unfair to Binay. Binay has been a loyal soldier of Noynoy's administration. He has been a loyal soldier of Noynoy's administration. He has been a loyal soldier of Noynoy's administration. He

Wild cards

ANALYSIS

Armando Doronila

IN THE AFTERMATH OF THE APPARENT landslide of Sen. Benigno Aquino III in the 2010 election, the political terrain looks unrecognizable, as though devastated by a cataclysmic earthquake. Only one man emerged from the upheaval as a clear winner—Aquino himself, who stands outside the upheaval in improving on the victories of Roxas. All political parties, including Aquino's own Liberal Party, are a heap of disorder.

His victory was not a triumph of his party. Judging from the results, especially those in the nine presidential votes, it appears that the political terrain is more shot all to ruins, to belie the theory that a party framework of the post-Edsa 1986 transition and returning to the two-party system of the pre-dictatorial regime installed by Ferdinand Marcos in 1972.

The results also wreaked havoc on the credibility of the media's prolific pundit industry, with many of its commentators eating crow and repenting profuse regrets for their "hopeless lemmata." This mechanistic of hunting-of-scalable-prey usually happens when political commentators go beyond the facts and relies passionate commentaries of the kind that Aquino's supporters indulge in, not the monopoly of politicians in power. It also afflicts the commentating industry and interviewers journalists who appear to believe that they make the news and that the events are shaped by their accounts as eyewitnesses of unfolding events.

The subtexting of the political map post-May 10 is and the solid footprint of political power are best told by the latest results of the congressional elections. The monolithic Aquino, pre-election majority coalition, Lakas-Kampi-CMD, suddenly finds that its once-huge lead of 80 congressional candidates now frame seats in May—less than half of the 200-seats in the House.

The reason of the casualties is such that whatever is left of its erstwhile majority cannot muster enough votes in the House which can be used a platform to stage a successful bid for the speakership by the arch-rival of Pres. Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo representing the side constituent of the second district of Pampanga. It takes at least 141 votes to elect a speaker. The coalition can no longer claim to be majority in the next Congress. It has to raid the ranks of other parties—the Liberal Party, Sen. Manuel Villar's Nacionalista Party, the Nationalist People's Coalition, and party list representatives—to make up the deficit. None of the above parties is large enough to provide a base for a successful bid for the speakership.

This condition is similar but a less for all voters of the post is up for grabs. The reduced former majority is daydreaming when it thinks that it has the edge in pushing Arroyo's ambitions, despite her early decision to take over direct leadership of the coalition. The disunity the situation condition that Arroyo has now a bloc of 50 votes to drive is wishful thinking and pure bravado.

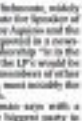
The notion of poaching votes from the minor, to parties defies political reality and tradition. When a new president takes over, the exodus begins from the defeated parties to the new ruling one although the president-to-be. Already, some congressmen are jumping around the newly elected Rep. Feliciano Belmonte Jr., of Quezon City, to block Aquino's bid for the speakership. The new alliance, called UDEE (Consensus and Reform) coalition of the Liberty Party is meant to be the nucleus of a new majority drawing members of the Nacionalista Party, the NPC and the party-list. The LP won 44 seats in May. Belmonte was tentatively chosen to oppose Arroyo party because he was speaker of the House in the 15th Congress. He was co-author of presidential relations affairs of the Lakas-Kampi-CMD , and he elected to the LP before the campaign started in February.

Belmonte's defection illustrates the fluidity and shifting road boundaries of the Philippine multi-party system. The dictatorial one-man machine replaces the competing majority party alliance are seen solid than Arroyo's majority coalition at the height of her power.

Neither Belmonte nor Belmonte is certain to be the final candidates for the speakership. Do not rule out the emergence of dark horses to break the emergence of dark horses to become the compromise candidate for the speakership, with no one party in control. Villar's intentions to become Senate president again should be seen as uncertain and premature. No one can claim he has the numbers to be elected to the post, since held by newly reelected Sen. Juan Ponce Enrile. Enrile was Villar's nemesis in the last campaign, with Enrile attacking the C-5 road extension controversy and Villar's investment in the Philippine Stock Exchange and the Securities Exchange Commission to lobby in favor of his stock. Offering advantageous to his self-interest is a source of dissatisfaction in Villar's presidential campaign. There are more than enough club homes in the Senate to seek its presidency.

The man who would be Speaker

AT LARGE



Rina Jimenez-David

IT'S A SURNAME THAT'S BEEN BANDIED about so often, it almost seems a done deal—a shoo-in a given. And the scenario is that outgoing President Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo, having won a seat in the House of Representatives (for the second district of Pampanga), would launch a bid for the presidency, counting on the support of her former party the Lakas-CMD-Kampi empire in the House. And then, as Speaker, Arroyo would find the things toward Charter Change, specifically to mount a challenge to the system of government from presidential to parliamentary, allowing herself of the post of prime minister and thereby effectively extending her rule and outlasting the incoming President as a ceremonial figure.

Speculation has been rife, at the same time, "Speaker" Arroyo would use her position as Speaker to threaten her successor with impeachment, perhaps the minute he begins making noises about filing charges of corruption or plunder against Arroyo and her family. She would not be entirely impossible again given her influence over a large number of party mates in the House.

Almost the only person I've met so far who believes the Pampanga solon's bid is "definite and not to be the speakership" is Rep. Edcel Lagman of Albay. And there's good reason he refuses to believe the scenario written by conspiracy theorists and media speculators alike. The reason is that he intends to run for Speaker of the 15th House himself. On his third consecutive term, Lagman certainly has the bearing of a Speaker: a position that marks him out as a "serious" person, a dyed-in-the-wool, urbane Bel Kaufman-esque bon mot is sure of speaking that makes it appear like he's delivering a privilege speech each time he addresses an audience, even if it's only his colleagues.

* * *

A SCRAPPY fighter in the halls of Congress, Lagman has built a network of allies among his colleagues. In his previous post as chair of the all-important Committee on Rules with minority Congressman as the Speaker, he was able to "reward colleagues in their final returns that he has been able to call in favors for his favorite bills."

He pads, paints the bloater of incoming Quezon City Congresswoman Kimi Belmonte, widely touted as the favored candidate for Speaker of pro-incumbent President Gloria Arroyo and the Liberal Party. Belmonte was quoted in a newspaper as saying that the Speakership "is in the bag" for her because he and the LP could be able to build a coalition with members of other political parties in the House, most notably the Nationalist People's Coalition.

"It's as simple as that," Lagman says with a smile. "Our party is still the biggest party in the House, and we can count on the support of many other allies," Besides, he noted, Belmonte is himself a newcomer to the House party, having failed (akas only party before he filed his candidacy for Congress. "He's also been away for quite a while," adds Lagman, referring to the three-time Belmonte served as mayor of Quezon City. Nine years, in political time, is indeed an eternity.

* * *

BUT who is this man Edcel Lagman who is now aspiring to be fourth in the line of succession if anything should happen to the president? Who is he?

During his first campaign for Congress in 1987, Lagman hit the ground running, he made way for his daughter Kitsel, who just won her second term as Mayor of Tabaco City). Lagman says he sought out the local New People's Army leaders to inform them of his candidacy and to warn them that they better not mess with him. This year, the local NPA again began making noises about charging candidates with "revolutionary taxes," but Lagman has "certain channels" in the communist movement. I talked to their commander and told them how dare they make me and my family candidates for which we are not responsible. I want to have the freedom of my family and my campaign," recalled Lagman.

He was referring to his brothers Herminio and Ka Popoy Sherman was a young lawyer who was picked up from the family home by soldiers looking for Popoy, already then a well-known activist and outspoken critic. The Lagmans never saw Herminio again and it is believed that he was tortured and killed by the Marcos military. Ka Popoy went underground and was found after the Edsa Revolt as a victim of torture and extreme exposure, but he has ended up "devoured" by the revolutionary forces, gunned down just outside UP's Kalayaan Hall.

So did the Edcel NPA cut his some slack and allow him to campaign in their areas without payoff? "Yes, I was able to campaign," I just explained that areas and campaigned."

* * *

IT'S THIS kind of courage and self-confidence that Lagman completely within the House, where he wields the kind of silent authority over even older colleagues.

It's the kind of influence he also uses to push forward controversial and even progressive legislations, like the abolition of the death penalty, debt repudiation, compensation for victims of human rights violations during Martial Law and the criminalization of enforced disappearance, the last in memory of his brothers.

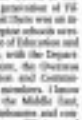
There's also, of course, also the very-controversial reproductive health bill, of which he was principal author. Of this bill, he says only half jokingly: "This is my last term. We better pass this or my pet."

This is the kind of man and legislator Lagman is: tough, daring and unafraid. Time will tell if these qualities will see him through his latest challenge, that of contesting the speakership of the House, given the "popular" mandate inviting a President-turned-legislator and given the inconvenience of a President who not only enjoys a popular mandate but also presumes to pursue a dizzying agenda for change.

Whatever or whatever prevails, Edcel Lagman will be right there in the middle of a fight, spoiling for action.

Rizal on overseas Filipino children

LOOKING BACK



Ambeth R. Ocampo

MARIA VENUS RAYGAN NOW REPRESENT THE Philippines in the Miss Universe Pageant this coming August after our Department of Foreign Affairs decided to raise her with a passport. Raygan born in Qatar to an Indian father and a Filipina mother. This resulted in a question over her citizenship that almost stripped her of her beauty title. Under a legal rule known as *ius sanguinis*, any individual of a Filipino descent is presumed to be Filipino regardless of the place of birth. Other countries have other rules: sometimes the place of birth determines a person's citizenship. As if you are born 25,000 feet above the ground on a international flight, do you really take the citizenship of the country that flies you there? What about Crown Prince Alexander II of Yugoslavia who was born in a London hotel in 1945? Does Prime Minister Winston Churchill declared Sir Alexander of Claridge's Royalist territory to make couple a rather complicated matter of place of birth and its relevance to citizenship.

Question of Filipino citizenship can up when someone runs for public office or an award. Lorna Tan's daughter ran for public office, but was disqualified because she was born in the United States. Gary Valenciano was awarded a TOSM (Ten Outstanding Young Men) award for music even if he carried a US passport because his father is Filipino. It was argued that if he aspired for this TOSM in the Philippines he should at least be a Filipino citizen; otherwise, he should have applied for the same award in the United States. Mr. John's have dual citizenship by virtue of birth. Their dad was the late Carlos Quirino who was proclaimed as National Artist for Historical Literature and was found to be an American citizen. Jaime was Filipino-to-very-wee; he fought as a Filipino during the war, he served in government as undersecretary of Foreign Affairs, Ambassador, and director of the National Library, he wrote many books and articles on Philippine history, for the second time award almost eluded him because of a technicality resolved by President Fidel V. Ramos who cancelled Quirino's US citizenship and restored his Filipino citizenship.

What really makes someone Filipino, more than a passport, is where the heart lies, the last, the emotional tie that binds. I have met Filipinos born in many Filipinos born outside the Philippines to Filipino parents, making it important that our Department of Foreign Affairs, through our embassies and consulates, provide lessons in language and culture to a new generation of Filipinos abroad. I didn't know that there was or is no agency or committee on Philippine education were founded by our Department of Education and Department of Foreign Affairs, with the Department of Labor and Employment, the Overseas Workers Welfare Administration and Commission on Filipinos Overseas as members. I have yet to see how Filipino schools in the Middle East, through which some of our embassies and consulates offer informal classes on Filipino and Philippine culture, but are we doing enough for this new generation of Filipinos growing up abroad?

The issue of repatriate Filipinos is not new. Our heroes Rizal, Marcelo H. del Pilar, and the Luna brothers were expatriates long before we even coined the term "OFW." Rizal left no with his enemies on the matter when he wrote his friend and schoolmate Fernando Canon from Paris in May 1889 to congratulate him on the birth of a son. First, Rizal apologized that he was at ordinary letter and that he had lost the matter of poetry that should have moved him to write some verses for the child, poetry to lull the baby to sleep. Then he wrote:

"I truly share your joy, I congratulate you and your wife, Dolorcita Ignon, because I am sure that he has little can only fall but in the noble qualities and good dispositions of his parents, and such events do not abound everywhere. Nevertheless, I cannot refrain from expressing to you a certain melancholy upon thinking that the new being in whose body Filipino blood runs and who will be educated with so much care will afterwards be a fair member for a country that is in need of men. I have the same sentiments when I hold in my arms the son of Doroteo Luna and Narcisa Burke. He is one French citizen and one Filipino less.

"It is true that the Filipinos who go to the Philippines give as their children, but what children, what education, and what laws they have for the country! But no one is to blame for this except the country itself which reserves for us inhabitants many things besides malaria, cockroaches and typhoons.

"In the great whirlwind of the world, let each atom look for the best nucleus, let it rise where and where it can! The only thing you can does to educate well your child and introduce in him an ideal. He will have the sentiments of that one day, if good luck enables him to the Philippines, he may not be one of so many who exploits the ignorance of the unfortunate, and be one more cruel in the bonfires of his father. All honorable men of the world are companions.

"May you and your family be happy, may your son be the nucleus of many virtuous republicans, and if the Philippines loses a son, at least he reminds may gain one.

"May the father and daughter sacrificed at his baptism influences somewhat his tender being like the atmosphere of a distant homeland, like the perfumes of a native land."

Pictures were a century ago, Rizal's lines are still relevant because it seems we have changed little since then.

Comments are welcome in my Facebook fan page.

Elections are us

I COULDN'T AGREE MORE WITH THE PRINCIPAL TO HAVE the news president-to-be in a barangay captain. The barangay is, after all, our basic political unit, with a long history that goes back to the pre-colonial period. But only that, it seems that we may have been adopting our barangay heads long before limited suffrage. In many ways, the barangay was the local point for our many struggles to build democracy in the Philippines.

PINOY KASI

Michael L. Tan

Last week in an article looking at how our latest elections went, I mentioned that our first formal election dated back to nearly 116 years ago, to 1899, when, under American supervision, we held a municipal election in Bulacan, Bulacan.

But even as I researched information on that election, I did wonder if perhaps we were already electing leaders before that. After all, the Malolos Constitution of the Filipino revolutionary government did mention that assembly members were to be elected.

I did more research over the last week and finally found some of the information I needed in I.D. Corpuz's two volume "The Roots of the Filipino Nation," published by the U.P. Historians or political scientists should eventually do a whole history of elections in the Philippines, but even the signatures I found in Corpuz's book provided a fascinating glimpse into how elections have always been important in the Philippines.

Gobernadorcillo

Corpuz writes that the Spanish municipals first arrived, they had to first implement the reduction, concentrating populations to make it easier to control them. People were already organized as barangays, and what the Spaniards did was to group several of these villages into pueblos.

I say more each of these barangays had a leader and from anthropology, we know that all barangays (or *balangay*, as they are formally older and more skilled) of small groups were often "elected" by consensus. Early accounts by the Spaniards referred as well to larger political units headed by a datu. Each barangay probably had several leaders but there would probably be one who was prime over peers (first among equals).

Corpuz writes that the Spaniards absorbed the native elite as cabezas de barangay. (Another term that was later used, way into the 1970s, was the kapitan del barrio.) At the next level, heading a pueblo, was the gobernadorcillo (literally, a little governor) and in the early Spanish colonial period, these were elected by "literate popular classes," according to Corpuz.

Apparently our ancestors took the gobernadorcillo elections quite seriously. Corpuz notes that "the townsfolk would be split into factions, the contests were bitter, and no measures luctuously attended the results," all sounding very much like 21st century elections.

In 1840, the Spanish governor-general took away this popular method of selecting the gobernadorcillo and replaced it with a system of electors. Twelve of the most senior cabezas de bar rangay and the outgoing gobernadorcillo were to come up with three nominees. But in addition to these cabezas, the provincial alcalde (an equivalent of our governor today) and the friar curate, also had a say in who the nominees would be.

The governor-general or, for more remote provinces, the provincial alcalde, would make the final decision but it was clear the friars wielded great power in the selection process, which was often held in the parish convent.

Not that the gobernadorcillo was intended to be a popular person: they were intermediaries for the colonial government, there to ensure that taxes were paid, and that the natives could be conscripted for various services. The gobernadorcillo even had quasi-judicial powers, a judge for minor criminal cases.

In 1768, a new system was put in place requiring that nominees be literate in Spanish. The electors got to vote in secret, with the alcalde presiding and the friar no longer required to be part of the proceedings. The nomination process was also moved out of the convent. Again, there had to be three nominees with the governor general or the alcalde making the final appointment.

The gobernadorcillo only had a term of one year so the annual political turbulence must have been intense, especially for the friars, who continued to intervene. Corpuz writes that a manual for Augustinian friars advised curates "to interest themselves in the elections," from after appointment, from the nomination of candidates right up to the approval by the Real consul. No wonder so much of the fin-siècle with Spanish colonialism was directed against the friars.

Elite

Fast forward now to the late 19th century. Rizal and other reformists who lived in exile in Spain fought for representation in the Cortes or Spanish parliament (but were not able to gain that right). Back in the Philippines, the Filipino-Chinese mestizos would also have been content if allowed representation in the Cortes, but most of the revolutionaries were now fighting for independence.

On June 18, 1898, after Spanish troops lost several towns in central Luzon, Emilio Aguinaldo issued a decree to reorganize the government in towns, calling for popular elections by elect members of the provincial council, who would then elect delegates to a revolutionary Congress.

Forty delegates were actually elected from provinces where the revolutionary government had gained control, but I could not find descriptions of how the elections were conducted. Many of the delegates, for example, were Ilustrados, others elections could not be held, with rather odd representations: Isaac Custodio of Manila, for example, was a mestizo Sangley while Isidoro Laurel, from Batangas, represented Juan Sumo.

The first Filipino republic was short-lived. Under the American, local elections were introduced almost immediately, the first one being in Bulinag, Bulacan. To vote, one had to be male, at least 23 years old, a taxpayer or property owner, literate in Spanish or English. He also had to take an oath of loyalty to the United States. Clearly, elections were only for the elite.

In 1907, national elections were held for the first Philippine assembly, although the population of the Philippines was more than 6 million, only 140,900 were considered qualified voters, and only 98,251 voted. (Corpuz observes that municipal elections held shortly before the national elections had 111,203 voting, showing greater interest in local elections.)

In 1936, the 1st Congress lowered the minimum age of voters from 23 to 21, and allowed literacy in a native language, rather than just English or Spanish.

Our elections continue to be elitist, requiring wealth to run for office. But suffrage is at least now extended to include women and younger people. With time, we have also seen the declining influence of guns, goons, gold and even gizmos like the latest computerized election technology. Are we move from one election to another fairly smoothly (even if clumsily). Democracy is a result in progress, from the bottom-up level up.

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Lessons from the 2010 elections

LETTERS

THE OUTCOME OF THE MAY 10 ELECTIONS is few. Despite Aquino's triumph, it is also the triumph of Filipinos who value honesty, integrity, truth, justice, freedom and democracy. And in the light of the poll results, there are valuable lessons that can be learned. Some of them are:

• Drill virtues, moral integrity to of primary consideration. It is the candidate that the electorate is looking for among the aspirants.

• The use of "superstructure-celebrity endorsement" has its limits, especially if the candidate cannot project somehow himself to be pro-poor.

• It doesn't pay to flaunt one's vast financial resources by using an excessive number of radio and TV announcements and publishing too many advertisements in magazines and newspapers.

• A candidate should answer only, before the people's court by avoiding questions begging for clear and straightforward answers.

• A candidate who had been trading in surveys and issued polls must never be victimized by lies and complainers at his or her political opponents' highs spring a surprise. Remember the "hasbi" issue once used to scores.

• Keep the discussion of issues at a high and dignified level. A candidate should not engage in mudslinging. This can boomerang, with the aspect of personal smarts gaining the public sympathy instead.

• A candidate should never resort to buying votes even as a "last resort" or strategy.

• Focus on the most timely and relevant election issues. In the May 10 polls, corruption was the top issue because the Arroyo administration is widely perceived to be graft-ridden.

Congratulations and best wishes to President-elect Benigno Aquino and the other winners. May they succeed in serving our country and the Filipino people well.

—ROBERTO S. SANTIAGO,
founder, Kapisanan ng mga Gurong Retirado (Kagure)
and former president, Quezon City Public School Teachers Association.
rosantiago@ymail.com

Columnist misread Gordon's character, humility

I SEE PATRICIA PANGILINAN ARTICLE "They call me DOC," 5/6/2010, 5/12/2010 Philippines is absolutely right to point out (for many) and varied reasons why Richard Gordon is not "number one" according to the surveys, including "the case of Philippine democracy" itself.

Evangelina is right to refer to Gordon's impressive winners' as the youngest Gordon delegate, as lawyer, as mayor, as chairman of Subic Bay as tourism secretary at a time of negativism, as senator and as a winner-in-fighting (Senate) for 43 years.

Sadly the writer insights on Gordon's capacity lack of character and humility in judgment based on her observations from media interviews with Gordon. In my opinion, Evangelina confuses Gordon's grit with lack of character, the confuses Gordon's confidence with lack of humility.

That same grit and confidence lifted sagging spirits in Olongapo and inspired people there to rise from the ashes, literally. On the other hand, it is character and humility that inspire Gordon to help people and communities as a public servant and as Red Cross volunteer.

—MICHELLE T. PEFIANO

Comelec, Smartmatic should be commended for resisting pressure from all sides to go manual

WITH THE UNEXPECTED SUCCESS OF THE automated election system (AES) in the just-concluded elections, the country's democracy legacies as the new president of the Republic, we are hopeful that a new era for the country will soon come. As the taxpayer expected in as little 12 hours, the people were just as stressed than before midnight of May 10, election results were already coming in and what on the following day local winners have already been proclaimed. If it were the archaic manual election, we could still be in the dark up to this writing, perhaps even months after, as in also the winners are. Another piece of welcome news was the known-conceding defeat just as fast. It do not to mention that happening in past elections.

There may have been some glitches that tainted the last elections, but they are always to be expected which we can live with because the first time, and to think that Smartmatic had to reconfigure the flash drives just days before election day! Just imagine delivering the records of every precinct and clusters of the country from Batanes to Jolo, it was such a gargantuan task which could have easily discouraged the vision lessened.

We must commend the Comelec and Smartmatic for their resolve not to succumb to varying pressures from several quarters to go back to manual election and counting. If they had wielded, the Philippines would still be wondering when it can finally go automated. And the billions of money already spent for automation would have gone to waste. Some of the pressure is our minds, we should be very proud for this milestone, despite the nonetheless less during election day, showed more patience in waiting for their votes on the PCOS machines.

—FERDINAND B. DUJUE,
anyfed7391@yahoo.com

Is sincere Pacquiao really ready for Congress?

AS A FILIPINO, I AM PROUD OF MANNY PACquiao for bringing honor to this gold-ridden country, and for joining Manny, Sarangani province on the world map. But to his decision to enter politics, I am sure Pacquiao was ill-advised...on shall I say little long to settle (surely will confidence).

His sincerity to serve the people is beyond question. However, does Pacquiao know the responsibilities of a congressman? It is not enough that a congressman does not accept to his constituents; it is not enough that he fills hungry stomachs during the campaign period.

To be a congressman, one must have the brains (attain majority of the members of Congress to vote him), also!).

—STEVEN S. RIVADIT,
cjd235289@yahoo.com

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Killing of BEIs, watchers assault on democracy

IN BEHALF OF THE OFFICERS, DIRECTORS, PRESIDENT and civilian employees of the Civil Service, forever and the Armed Forces of the Philippines, we offer our deepest condolences to the families of the victims of the recent ambush staged by the New People's Army in Barangay Mahayahay, Monpanan, Compostela Valley province(s). We identify with the families of the victims of the tragedy.

We remember our fallen soldiers in Compostela Valley, who made the ultimate sacrifice in keeping the peace for our people and our democracy. We lament the killing of BEIs (Board of Election Inspectors) and poll watchers by NPA atrocities.

Attacks on BEIs and poll watchers are an assault on our democracy. Only terrorist organizations are capable of such treacherous attacks. The AFP is currently taking decisive steps, emphasizing the urgent need to bring the culprits to justice. We will exhaust every possible effort to identify and apprehend the 100% terrorists are accountable to the law. They must be liable to answer for their crimes.

Although MR leaders have registered legal cases for murder, multiple slayings cannot atone for what has been violated...the dignity of human life. Hence, we call on human rights groups to condemn this attack for it is sometimes upon them, by virtue of their advocacy to demand justice for the victims' families and help ensure that such violent incidents shall never, ever, occur.

I also call on the Filipino people to embrace a wave of prayer for our soldiers amid the threat of end them and dangers they have to make in the performance of their duties so the Filipino people can keep safe and free from danger, and for their efforts in ensuring that our electoral processes remain free from violence, intimidation and manipulation.

We thank the Filipino people for supporting our troops and standing in our capacity, as professional and non-partisan soldiers, to safeguard their votes in the last elections. We have proven to the nation that we completely rely on the AFP's chain and to the Constitution.

Indeed, the Filipino people can be assured of the AFP's fidelity to its oath.

—MAJ. GEN. FRANCISCO S. CRUZ (R.),
commander,
Media Affairs Group Civil Relations Service,
Civil Relations Service, AFP
magcruz@gmail.com

Assistant Editor Tony Bargenia

Across the NATION

NPA frees Surigao Sur mayor, aides

'Only his custodial detention is ended. As for the POWs, the inquiry shall be suspended . . .'

TAGUM CITY—NEW PEOPLE'S ARMY REBELS ON MONDAY CONfirmed the release of a Surigao del Sur mayor and his four bodyguards, who were seized by the rebels in Compostela Valley on May 5.

Roel Agustin R, spokesperson of the New People's Army's Guerrilla Herodia Command, said in a statement that the NPA has decided to release Lingig Mayor Roberto Lucas and his companions following his "voluntary admission of culpability and issuance of a public apology" on his alleged crimes against the revolutionary movement.

Johnny Pimentel, governor-elect of Surigao del Sur, said in a text message to the Inquirer that the mayor and the other hostages are now in his custody and that "they are fine."

Agustin said the NPA released Lucas also for humanitarian reasons and amid appeals made by relatives, friends and supporters.

He said, however, that the NPA's "judicial proceedings" against Lucas would continue.

The NPA has accused Lucas of land grabbing, murders and other charges that carry the death penalty in the underground movement.

"Only his custodial detention is terminated. As for the POWs, investigation shall be suspended," Agustin said.

Lucas and his bodyguards—soldiers Jules Bay Abao and Jomel Dizon and policemen Boy de Castro and Alan Dapitanon—and two more aides were seized by NPA gunmen at a roadblock along the national highway in Mankayan, Compostela Valley.

Lucas was on his way to Davao City to visit a sick child when he was taken.

His aides—a driver and a secretary—were freed aboard the mayor and his bodyguards.

While Lucas and his escorts had been freed already, the fate of four government soldiers seized by NPA rebels in Monkayo, Compostela Valley, on May 12 remained unclear as of yesterday.

The government soldiers—Corporals Marcial Bagawan, Ariel Aramio and Eduardo Alcala, and militiaman Abner Pinggo—were abducted at the birthday party of Bagawan's son in Barangay Sawangan.

Capt. Nirmenzo Cuerio, public affairs officer of the 10 Infantry Division based in Davao City said the four soldiers were freed into a black van that was seen heading for Barangay Sabang in Compostela Valley.

Garcia said the rebels involved in the abduction of the four soldiers could be the same ones who took part in the May 11 ambush of a convoy of soldiers and civilians transporting election paraphernalia in Compostela Valley.

At least five people were killed in the May 11 ambush while 12 others were injured. Princess Lim, Inquirer Mindanao

Bolinao, Anda shellfish tagged unsafe

DAGUPAN CITY— THE BUREAU OF FISHeries and Aquatic Resources (BFAR) discovered all shellfish gathered from Bolinao and Anda waters as unsafe for human consumption after routine animals tests turned positive for contamination by paralytic shellfish poisoning (PSP) toxin.

The toxin is sometimes identified with red tide poisoning, although BFAR officials say the toxin levels there have not yet reached a full bloom red tide condition.

The announcement affects the harvest and consumption of shrimps, oysters, mussels and crabs until further tests are conducted, said BFAR Regional Director Nestor Domenden.

Domenden said tests conducted on May 7 and on May 11 showed that sample shellfish from levels of toxins, which register as 65-100 microgrammes per 100 grams of shellfish meat. The results exceeded the safe standards of 80 microgrammes per 100 grams of meat, he said.

"We conducted another test on Tuesday (May 18) and we will know the results by Friday if the level of PSP toxin has already gone down," Domenden said.

The shellfish, which feed on algae, is contaminated by PSP toxin when microscopic algae, such as dinoflagellate, begin to bloom in the area. The algae contain the toxin.

Water there in San Louis had suffered from red tide poisoning in April, but BFAR had lifted the ban on shellfish gathering on May 14 after determining that shellfish there had been cleared of contamination.

Bitoon River supplies into Bahipanan Channel that traverses Anda and Bolinao. A fungus (mollusk) aquaculture industry thrives in these towns.

Domenden said fungus raised in the area are still safe for human consumption for as long as households remove the fish innards before cooking.

"The practice of many consumers to cook the innards to make them into fungsong should be stopped for the meantime," he said.

On Saturday, the BFAR confiscated about 20 kilograms of shellfish from the San Fabian public market because the vendor could not present an auxiliary invoice that would show that the commodity was safe. Yolanda Swirble, Inquirer Northern Luzon

MILF hopeful on new peace talks under Noy

COTABATO CITY—THE MORO ISLAMIC Liberation Front (MILF) said on Monday it was willing to resume peace talks with the Aquino administration.

But Ghazali Jaafar, MILF political affairs chief, said all previous agreements should have to be honored also.

Among those agreed upon during the 12-year-old Mindanao peace process were a ceasefire accord and the formation of an International Contact Group.

Jaafar said the agreements were signed with the government and not just with President Macapagal-Arroyo and proponents of peace achievements.

"This is not a negotiation involving new personalities. This is a negotiation involving new sectors recognized worldwide," he said.

Jaafar said based on this belief, the MILF was hopeful that peace talks would resume soon.

"We expect the incoming new government to open its doors to a peaceful and comprehensive settlement of the Bangsamoro problem," he said by phone.

Edwin Fernandez, Inquirer Mindanao

GMA House bets almost sweep E. Visayas races

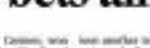
By Jerry Esplanada
Inquirer Visayas

EXCEPT FOR MODEL-TELEVISION personality Lucy Torres Gomez, old political hands allied with outgoing President Macapagal-Arroyo will still rule Eastern Visayas.

In Leyte, the Petilla family continues its political dominance with the incumbent governor, Jo'ebo, leading the pack, barring some dire post-Se'bast build for six years now without any hitch.

His mother, Remedios, was an mayor of Palo town, while a cousin, Jose Carlo Cari, gained the congressional seat in the fifth district.

Cari's mother, Cesimo, was an mayor of Baybay City board Member Carlo Loreto, another cousin of the governor, was re-elected. (Carlo Loreto's younger sister, Jeanne Loreto Cantis, was re-elected congresswoman in Biliran.)



Former presidential legal adviser, Sergio Apostol, won as congressman in the second district, while his wife, Trinidad, was elected mayor of Tacloban City and is the sister of reelected Leyte Vice Gov. Milagros Tagbabas.

Television host Lucy Torres Gomez, running as a substitute candidate to husband Richard, took another term as representative in the first district. Cesario Alfred was reelected mayor of Tacloban City and his wife, Cristina, re-elected councilor. Alfredo Serbo, Sojo, however, lost in his vice mayoral bid for Tacloban.

Cross-dresser Jose Marie Bagalacsa did not win a city council seat. The 35-year-old who had hoped his ladies' lingerie would help him break a gender barrier is the son of reelected Leyte Vice Gov. Milagros Tagbabas.

Television host Lucy Torres Gomez, running as a substitute candidate to husband Richard, made a political ripple by defeating Eufrocino "Winnie" Codilla Jr., whose family had ruled the fourth district for more than a decade.

The small island province of Biliran continues to be ruled by the Espina family with outgoing Gov. Rogelio Espina defending the incumbent congressman, Glen Chong. Espina's youngest brother, Gerardo Jr., took over the gubernatorial post that Rogelio held for nine years.

Their father, Gerardo Senior, was elected mayor of Kawayan town with his son Rodolfo as vice mayor.

Mercado country

In Southern Leyte, it's still a Mercado country with brothers Roger and Damian getting reelected congressman and governor, respectively.

Roger defeated his old rival, Aniceto Tolentin, in the lone congressional district, while Damian first-timer knew the political ambitions of Marina Lerias, whose mother, Rosario, the former governor, lost in Mercado's favorite in the mayoral race in Maasin City.

Samar continues to be a political playground of Gov. Milagros Tan and her two children, with all three holding the top three posts in the province.

Tan won a congressional seat in the second district, replacing her daughter Sharee-Ann, who is now taking over her post as governor. Sharee-Ann's younger brother, Stephen, is her vice governor.

Rep. Emmi of Northern Samar have reinstated political rulers. Outgoing three-term Gov. Raul Daza easily defeated his rival in the congressional race in the first district, changing seats with his son Paul.

Eastern Samar Gov. Ben Evardone, a close ally of President Macapagal-Arroyo, defeated another Kampi ally, Teodulo Coquilla, for the lone congressional seat.

Marcoses keep Ilocos turf; few new faces win in North

By Inquirer Northern Luzon
and Inquirer Central Luzon

A NEW face in local politics, Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo, appears in a poster that was strewn all over Pampanga's second district where the outgoing President won by a huge margin over her distant rival in the race for a seat in the House of Representatives. PHOTO BY ARMANDO SUCGANG JR.

BASSO CITY—A MIX OF NEW AND OLD faces and returning officials will lead provinces and cities in northern and Central Luzon in the next three years.

In the Ilocos region, elected governors were former Marcos Ilocos Norte, NPC, Imee "Chavit" Singson (Ilocos Sur, Nilad), Manuel Ortega (La Union, NPC) and Mamerto Eugenio Jr. (Pangasinan, Lakas-Kampi-CMD).

Marcos, eldest daughter of the late dictator Ferdinand Marcos, is former Ilocos Norte representative, while Singson is reclaiming his old seat. Ortega and Eugenio were reelected.

Marcos turf

The region will be represented in the House of Representatives by Rodolfo Fariñas (NP) and former First Lady Imelda Marcos (KBL) of Ilocos Norte; Ronald Singson (Lakas-Kampi-CMD) and Eric Singson Jr. (Lakas-Kampi-CMD) of Ilocos Sur; Victor Ortega (Lakas-Kampi-CMD) and Ed Fuentes Espiritu (NPC) of La Union; and Jesse Celeste (Lakas-Kampi-CMD), Leopoldo Bataoil (Lakas-Kampi-CMD), Rachel Arenas (Lakas-Kampi-CMD), Gina de Venecia (NPC), Cornelio Cruz-Agabas (NPC) and Marlyn Primicias-Agabas (NPC).

Ronald Singson, Ortega and Arenas were reelected, while Fariñas is returning to Ilocos Norte politics. While some of them belong to old political families, the new faces entering the House of Representatives are Fariñas, Celeste, Agabas, Espiritu, Gabriela Bataoil, De Venecia, Cojuangco and Aquino.

The election dynasties in the region were Michael Farinas (Laoag, Lakas-Kampi-CMD), Jeffrey Nalupta (Batac, Lakas-Kampi-CMD), Eva Marie Medina (Vigan, Bkng), Allen Singson (Candon, Lakas-Kampi-CMD), Pablo Ortega (San Fernando, Lakas-Kampi-CMD), Benjamin Lim (Dagupan, NP), Amadeo Eugenio Perez IV (Urdaneta, NPC), Javier Bustillo (Dau Carlos, Lakas-Kampi-CMD) and Fernani Braganza (Alaminos City, LP).

New faces in North

In the Cordillera, Benguet Gov. Nestor Fongwan (Lakas-Kampi-CMD) and Abra Gov. Eustaquio Bersamin were reelected.

Among the new faces are Governors Jesse Robredo (Bicol, Lakas-Kampi-CMD), Vicente Ong (Aurora, Lakas-Kampi-CMD), Rodolfo Agbayani (Batangas, Lakas-Kampi-CMD), Teodoro Bagtasbal Jr. (Cavite, LP) and Mariano Velarde (Nueva Ecija, PDP). Eleanor Begtang (Aparri

INQUIRER Northern Luzon

CORDILLERA AUTONOMY

A failure of listening and imagination?

By Maurice Malanes
Baguio City

HARDLY ANY OF THE CANdidates in the Cordillera picked up regional autonomy as part of their platform for the May 10 elections.

This must be a fortunate coincidence, though. Otherwise, the political scene would have just dreamed into a healthier debate about Cordillera autonomy, which, according to a University of the Philippines professor, needs a lot of listening and imagination.

For a debate on autonomy to prosper, the protagonists may have to sit down in the trenches of the dap-ay (the indigenous roundtable conference of the Ibaloi), the fongtongan (Bontoc's dap-ay counterpart), and the bodong of the Kalinga and Tinggian.

These indigenous frameworks require the participants to "listen to each other so they can agree on consensus, which must ultimately serve the greater good of the community."

But the institutions and people who tell in the autonomy debate had largely failed to lend their ears to each other. The result, says Dr. Athena Lydia Casambre, was a "disharmony...the failure to listen to reason."

This, says Casambre, a former UP Baguio faculty member, characterized the debate on Cordillera autonomy. "No wonder that the proposed Organic Act (draft law for autonomy) was soundly rejected in January 1990," the first political exercise that could have helped institutionalize self-rule, she says.

Casambre, now a political science professor at UP Diliman, was in UP Baguio last month to attend a political science workshop and the launching of "Discourses on Cordillera Autonomy," a book compiling her three essays on the ajtonal regions as a self-governance.

She cites almost the same failure of the various players in court in 1998, when another proposed organic act was rejected.

Key players

Casambre analyzes how the autonomy issue and its key players evolved as a response to a long history of discrimination and neglect, which heightened during the late dictator Ferdinand Marcos' martial law reign.

She also notes how the shift from Marcos' martial rule to President Corazon Aquino's liberal-democratic politics "provided the impetus for progressive groups in Cordillera civil society, principally the Cordillera Peoples Alliance (CPA), to push their political agenda further."

After Marcos' ouster in February 1986, the CPA endorsed the reinstitution of indigenization against a series of the regime's data projects along the Chico River, she says.

With the "democratic space" under Aquino, it helped lobby for the inclusion in the 1987 Constitution of the provision for autonomous regions in the Cordillera and Muslim Mindanao, Casambre says.

This same democratic space and post-Edsa euphoria led to other interesting developments. Casambre cites the Aquino administration's peace negotiations with Fr. Conrado Balweg's Cordillera People's Liberation Army (CPLA), which led to the clipt (power pact) on Sept. 13, 1986, in Mount Data in Bauko, Mt. Province.

This pact eventually prompted Aquino to craft Executive Order No. 220, which established a special Cordillera Administrative Region to prepare the region for autonomy.

"The Edsa threats and the democratic politics immediately following open it unquestionably hastened the coming to the fore of the issue of Cordillera autonomy," Casambre says.

Since the constitutional provision for regional autonomy needed an enabling law, a measure was drafted and submitted to the Cordillera electorate in a plebiscite in January 1990.

Before the voting were intense debates on autonomy. Casambre identifies the main protagonists: CPA, CPLA, Bibak (Benguet, Ifugao, Bontoc, Apayao and Kalinga) Provincials Association or BPA, Cordillera Broad Coalition (CBC), and the regional National Economic and Development Authority.

Casambre notes, however, that the debates did not lead to a "clear, comprehensive, and acceptable proposition" for supporting an autonomous region.

She finds it ironic that the CPA, which helped lobby for the inclusion of autonomy in the Constitution, made "a 180-degree turn," campaigning to reject the proposed organic act.

Disjointed

The CPA's move was "not least because what they (CPA leaders) had won in the form of a constitutional provision had become perverted as soon as the government entered into a spat with the CPLA" but because the two groups "had militantly differ-

FOR THE CORDILLERA autonomy and other issues to prosper, indigenous gatherings that require participants to listen to one another as they carr reach a consensus must be tapped, he (Jesse Casambre) says, the greater good of the community.

ent projects in mind," Casambre says.

"The narrative of Cordillera autonomy," she says, "became severely disjointed at this point."

What Casambre calls the "middle" sectors, led by the professionals, "caught in a choice between two unacceptable projects, found themselves aligning with others behind the proposal for regionalization without the urgency of autonomy as espoused by the CPA and CPLA."

The CPA argued for autonomy on the premise of a newly formed "pan-Cordillera identity" and called it "Kangrosan." This was not well-received because the Cordillera nations' self-identity was and continues to be anchored in the village, Casambre says.

An regional autonomy project was also conceived within "the larger politics of national democracy (neo-dem)," which, she says, "ejected? the majority of the nation.

Until now, she says, despite forming empowered people's organizations in the region, not enough voices would support an autonomous region as defined by the CPA because of the "non-dem spaces."

"The CPA will have to engage in 'coalition politics' and collaborate with other groups in articulating a vision of Cordillera autonomy that will have a favorable future," Casambre says.

But she says voices were also expelled by the CPLA's version of autonomy based on a proposed "Cordillera Autonomous Socialist State" and a "nonsectarian Cordillera Nation," with the holding as the overall guiding indigenous political principles.

The participation later of bureaucrats and lawyers did not help either in clarifying issues on the autonomy debate, she says.

"But a notable basis for Cordillera autonomy has been achieved because of a generation of imagination," she says.

Casambre suggests the need for "disciplined soul direction" in gathering and analyzing data or pooling the pieces together "so we could see the whole picture."

Through these, the key players and stakeholders in the autonomy discourse can finally grasp the "ordinaries from the familiar" and so "we can move outwards," she says.

Elections as clan reunions

AS IN PAST POLLS, LORNA CAYAD-AN PINTALEON HAD TO cook extra food for lunch for an expected reason during the May 10 political exercise.

Just a seater's throw away from the rare polling precincts in Barangay Poblacion in Kibungan, Benguet, her house has become the ceremonial second home and venue for instant reunions for family members and relatives who have preferred to vote in their hometown than in their place of work, such as Baguio City and Metro Manila.

"We have something special for you," Cayad-an Pintaleon, the Sangguniang Bayan (municipal council) secretary, said as she welcomed guests. She was referring to the native delicacies meat and other recipes that her family prepared.

The feasting was presumed by her 89-year-old father, Celso Cayad-an, who was again excited to welcome his grandchildren, nephews and nieces.

Exhausted and hungry clan members appreciated the sumptuous lunch plus strawberry Arabica brew which, they said, were enough to compensate for the three-to-four-hour drive they had to beat under the heat before they cast their votes on May 10.

The sundeal meal was the elder Cayad-an's endearing way of welcoming clan members, some of whom have made him proud.

One of the prominent members is Congressman Lagdao, a provincial prominence whom the old man would always like to meet and welcome every election.

Although he and his family built their home in Baguio, Lagdao had never transferred his place of voter's registration. Every vote he casts is his way of helping bring change in his own hometown, he says.

Political caucus

As Cayad-an rehearsed the schedule of a bigger clan reunion in 2013, discussions over coffee would unavoidably shift to politics.

The distant get-together at Cayad-an-Pintaleon's house had then become an informal political caucus. The discussion become political also after Lagdao and Councilor Damian, an environmental activist in Benguet, took turns in suggesting ways for the country to return to a two-party system.

Other clan members agreed that a two-party system could help simplify the country's electoral process.

"Through a voter screening process, each party can finally pick the highly competent people, who can really run the country," Lagdao said. "Maybe we can learn from other more mature democracies, including the United States."

Casano also suggested mobilizing non-government and people's organizations in helping facilitate discussions and forums to tackle the country's return to a two-party system.

"If we have an efficient two-party system through which chosen leaders could really serve the country, maybe we can even do away with these party-list groups," he said.

Maurice Malanes

DAYS OF RAGE A Thai soldier holds his rifle as he mounts a street sweeper after rubber bullets were fired at anti-government protesters' base camp taking place in Bangkok. AP

FIRE POWER An anti-government protester prepares to throw a fire cracker at soldiers on a street in Bangkok. Thai troops maintained a security cordon around thousands of anti-government demonstrators on Tuesday. AFP/REUTERS

Thai gov't rejects talks with protesters

From page A1

Troops fired warning shots as protesters hurled stones and hurled petrol bombs, but the violence was substantially less intense than in recent days.

Cabinet Minister Suthep Thaugsuban says quoted the prime minister as saying that "the situation will end only when the protest stops."

Tuesday's televised comments came in response to an offer made earlier in the day by Red Shirt protest leaders, who said they would unconditionally accept an offer by the country's premier to mediate talks to end five days of officially-ordered violence.

Their acceptance was significant, since they had previously set conditions for any talks.

Scattered clashes

Abhisit called the leaders' speech in response to the government's position, Suthep said.

At least 37 people were killed over five days of fighting and clashes in downtown streets of Bangkok, paralyzing parts of the capital and destabilizing a country regarded as one of Southeast Asia's strongest democracies.

Scattered clashes continued between soldiers and the anti-government Red Shirts, though confrontations appeared less intense than in previous days.

The military defended its use of deadly but limited force, saying troops only fired to protect themselves and Bangkok's citizens and did not pursue provocative attacks.

"If they don't move from town, then what's the use," said Army spokesperson Col Sansern Kaewkamnerd. He also accused the Red Shirts of using a young child as a human shield, holding him up above a barricade in the streets.

Extended holiday

The government announced that a five-day public holiday was being extended to Friday because of the security situation.

The Red Shirts have for a month occupied a three-square-kilometre district of downtown Bangkok's tourist and retail, camping on the streets next to shuttered five-star hotels and upscale shopping malls.

The protesters, many of whom hail from the impoverished north and northeast, are demanding that Abhisit dissolve Parliament and call early elections.

They say the current government came to power through manipulation of the courts and the backing of the powerful military and that it goes against results of a 2007 election to remove democracy after a military coup.

A THAI Red Shirt anti-government protester runs away with a petrol can after setting fires on fire on Rama IV road in Bangkok on Tuesday. AFP

'Democracy first'

"Issue, I want to go home, but I want democracy first," said Chumlot Lachiu, a protester in his 60s from coastal Lopburi province. "I'd rather stay here, be posed and die fighting than die in my village without Tee shirt."

Government officials criticized a proposal from a group of 64 senators in the 150-member upper house who have offered to mediate peace talks and have urged a ceasefire.

Abhisit, speaking to the prime ministry, said talks would only take place if the Red Shirts end their protest—a condition the protesters have consistently rejected.

The mostly rural and urban poor Red Shirts accuse the British-born, Oxford-educated Abhisit of leading a popular minority after coming to power in a controversial parliamentary vote in 2008 with tacit backing from the military.

Authorities extend the Red Shirts to leave their barricaded encampment by Monday afternoon, but the deadline passed without apparent progress even how long the military operation would continue and whether talks would work.

Women, children

Troops have thrown a cordon around the protest site, a "core city" of the Bangkoknyong intersections, paralyzing the heart of Bangkok. Hundreds of women and children fled to inner refuge in a temple inside the protest area.

On the outskirts of their encampment, small groups of protesters continued to challenge the soldiers, hurling petrol bombs and stones at a checkpoint on Rama IV Road leading to the business district, and burning tires on this thong, scene of intense fighting over the weekend. Sporadic volleys to end.

Abhisit said "terrorists" had tried to stir trouble through random killings, targeting innocent people at rallies, rescue workers and journalists, including an assailant on Monday in an apartment block under construction.

"A group of snipers dressed as soldiers were hiding on floors 24 to 27 shooting randomly at people, and that is being blamed on soldiers," he told a televised briefing.

Thai media reported a fire was raging in a row of deserted shops on the outer area on Tuesday and firefighters were struggling to get into the area because of barricades.

Rescue Service deputy Medical Center said on Tuesday that 38 people had died in the flareup of violence since May 13 and 67 had been killed people since trouble started in April. *Reports from Al and Reuters*

Gordon still couldn't believe he got only 450,000 votes

From page A1

In the presidential surveys, Gordon placed fifth in a field of nine. A tie stood of Eddie Villanueva, who actually fell further down to sixth in the Commission on Elections tally after the May 10 balloting.

"Quite frankly, I thought I had more votes than 450,000. I just can't believe it but if that's the vote, that's the vote. I'm willing to accept it," Gordon said in his Bantayog-ng-puti for volunteers, supporters and close friends in Tagaig City on Monday night.

BBC, Gordon thought he was the left that he used his campaign slate Bayan Muna's Satur Ocampo, former chair of the Moro-Mindanao Development Authority Manda Dimaporo, to help him make the election "more qualitative."

"We had a platform. We did not engage in all kinds of radicals. We tried to make it what an election must be—about issues, platforms, work record and integrity," he said.

What might have been

As mayor, Gordon transformed Olongapo, the liberty town outside the former US base, into the Subic Bay Freeport, and the American facility itself from the devastation wrought by the eruption of Mt. Pinatubo in 1991 into one of the country's most progressive regions.

Beyond had a similar record. As mayor, he turned Marikina from a backwater into a modern urban center. Even as Manila chafed, he raised his own city's fiscal pass and cleared up the main thoroughfares.

The 65-year-old senator said he would leave easily enough re-election for a seventh year term.

Surveys to blame

"Looking at those projections, I could have easily done that," Gordon said, referring to the winners in the Senate race.

Gordon blamed popularity surveys for his election defeat, saying they conditioned the minds of the voters.

"It didn't mean people don't respect me," he told his then-running opponents. "Before, it was just about money. These days, the new country is the survey."

"There was no good, that came out of surveys except that they were used as a propaganda weapon by those who paid for them," he added.

"I knew I was going to lose because the mind-set brought about by the surveys caused by reversed. When I ran, of course, I wanted to win. But I knew it was going to be an uphill climb. I had very little money but I said if I don't try, I would never forgive myself," Gordon said.

Case for damages

The senator said the outcome of the election had paved the way for him all the more to pursue the case for damages he had filed against Social Weather Station and Pulse Asia Inc.—the survey firms that regularly released findings that showed him fifth in the presidential race.

"My case continues. I will prove that those who paid (for the surveys) always get higher than those who did not pay. It cannot be said that I was weak. Armed and I did not do the right thing," Gordon said.

GORDON

Marcelo defends The Firm, denies Chavez raps

From page A1

for one of its own, Associate Justice Antonio Carpio.

Marcelo noted that Chavez also shared his view that the Supreme Court erred in allowing Gloria's midnight appointment.

"I can't find fault for (Chavez) with for position, which a similar to yours, that the high court ruling was erroneous, a 'supreme error' as he called it," said Marcelo, president of the Philippine Bar Association.

No interest in JBC

Marcelo denied Chavez's claim that he was pursuing for a seat in the powerful Judicial and Bar Council (JBC).

"Absolutely. I have no ambition to be in the JBC. It's a post being fed wrong information by other people," he said.

Why current speaks by itself when I moved as the executive protocol and the Ombudsman. I have no interest for the JBC. The Ombudsman could be considered the second most powerful position after the presidency," he added.

Marcelo also disputed Chavez's claim that he did not "lift a finger" or pursued cases after scandals in the Arroyo administration were exposed.

Main 3 controversy

Marcelo said he filed cases against government officials in the Manny Aquino Information at airport (Main) Terminal 3 controversy and the construction of the Diosdado Macapagal Boulevard in Pasay City, and plunder charges against retired Mil. Gen. Carlos Garcia, a former Armed Forces comptroller.

"I did not let inhibited himself in the plunder cases that Chavez had filed against President Macapagal-Arroyo because (all) matters had demanded it. Chavez said this showed that Marcelo was biased for the President.

"The problem here is that 'You're damned if you do, and damned if you don't.' The lawyer noted that I inhibit myself in cases involving Mr. Arroyo. I did. Now I'm being criticized for it," Marcelo said.

He also belied Chavez's charge that persons linked to The Firm were offering posts in the incoming administration of Benigno Aquino III, the presumptive president-elect.

"That's wrong information. We are busy with our work. He was given wrong information. These are managers," Marcelo said.

Tulada for Ombudsman

Marcelo said Chavez also erred in saying that he was asking around if former Special Prosecutor Jovito Salonga is "acceptable" as the next Ombudsman. Marcelo said he wanted former Sen. Wigberto Tañada to be the next Ombudsman.

"Ever before Jovito Arquino saw [his presidency] and it was still Mel Sarmiento, I was already saying that it's Bobby Tañada," Marcelo said.

MARCELO

Marcelo said he also disagreed with Chavez's allegations that groups within the Aquino-Roxas campaign were already jockeying for positions.

"There are all media hype. There's no such thing as a five-in-10 group. We all came here as our individual capacities because we were interested by the line but we did not answer his metaphic phrase. Chavez said that Cesa wanted to be the next justice secretary.

Liberal Party campaign manager Florencio "Butch" Abad said he doubted allegations that Cesa was grooming for the Department of Justice's top post.

Cesa heads the Bantay Eleksyon organization of the Liberal Party campaign.

"Knowing Cesa, I don't think he's going to do that. He's very, very careful about these issues especially knowing that the spotlight is on The Firm now," Abad said.

Media hype

Abad also dismissed as media hype

Editor Rodolfo C. Mendoza Jr.
Assistant Editor Francis T. J. Dichoso

SPORTS

Big guns say 10 under or better will win it

By Mayong R. Castillo

HAVE TO DEBT Jay Bayron

TNT eyes No.8 vs Derby Ace

Alaska clashes with Coca-Cola

By Mayong R. Castillo

NEW Tropang Texter Ryan Reyes (center) drives off Coca-Cola Tigers' Chico Lanete (left) and Gary David in Friday's game.

Canadian triathlete: I'll lead way for RP team

By Jun Mateo

Django, Bata lead RP bets' march

BUTTAFINGATE

Barredo, Sobere nail softball MVP honors

KARTING WORLD CUP

Reyes, Benitez off to Japan

READY FOR THE CHALLENGE Jet Racing aces Franco Reyes (left) and Javier Miguel Lopez Benitez

All-female t'wondo Sunday

Roel Velasco handles Abap's elite fighters

Roces tows SSC to finals

Tigresses rip Lady Pirates, forge do-or-die duel

By Jasmine W. Payo

SUZANNE ROCES PICKED THE PERFECT time to play her best game, shouldering most of the work for her struggling San Sebastian teammates.

Roces fired a career-high 32 points as the Lady Stags completed a solidified sweep of the Arenas' Lady Eagles, 25-23, 25-22, 23-25, 23-25, 15-12, to clinch the first championship berth of the Shakey's V-League Season 7 yesterday at the FilOil Flying V Arena in San Juan.

"Roces really delivered in the fifth set," said coach Roger Gonzaga after the Lady Stags closed out the series in 3-0. "We played so hard that I was already expecting that there will be a fifth set. We just survived this game."

The Lady Stags, runner-up in last season's first conference, will get another shot at the crown against the winner of the other tie between University of Santo Tomas or Ateneo.

The Tigresses, seeking for a third straight title, forged a winner-take-all with a straight-set triumph, 25-16, 25-23, 25-22, against the Lyceum Lady Pirates in Game 2 of their twin best-of-three semifinal series.

Alyn Matias foiled the the Lady Pirates' comeback effort in the third frame by sending the Tigresses from an 11-16 deficit to finish with 18 points.

Mary Joie Rabe, whose service ace wrapped up the contest, had 16 markers to go with Angel Tabaquero's 16.

The Tigresses tied the series at 1-1 even as head coach Shaq delos Santos, who is in Baku for a coaching seminar until May 25.

"Our game (plan) was well executed," said assistant coach Villet Ilesan de Leon after the Tigresses recovered from a 16-22, 25-15, 23-25, 25-23, 15-10 setback in Sunday's opener. "We just had to improve our blocking because that was what we missed last time."

Roces took control of the final set with desk spurts against an Arenas squad also playing aggressively even minus team ace Chaie Santamy, who sustained a season-ending knee injury last week.

"By the fifth set, I already told Roces to carry the team," said Gonzaga.

Roces authored 23 spikes on top of four blocks, seven service aces and 38 digs to ease the Lady Stags to their sixth overall finals appearance.

Arenas simply had no answer for Roces with Rabaca, a key factor in the Lady Eagles' defense, out of commission.

"We have just really underperformed. He needed the blocking ability of Chaie (Santamy) and our defense was not up to par with our offense," said Arenas coach Gilet Malanza. With reports from Channar Mellese Arriesles and Jillen Rafaela Barrios

WITH a key component of their blocking brigade missing, Pilar Caringal and the Ateneo Lady Eagles could not put up enough of a defensive wall against Suzanne Roces and the San Sebastian Lady Stags.

The SOGO Chain of Hotels

along with its affiliates and employees, sharing the same sentiments of a great number of Filipinos, would like to say

Thank You

to the

COMELEC, Smartmatic along with its Partners and Providers,

who were steadfast in pushing through with the 2010 automated election amidst the attacks, skepticism and doubt

Teachers, Election Inspectors, PPCRV, LENTE, Poll Watchers, Media, PNP, AFP, and all concerned Gov't. Agencies and NGOs,

who tirelessly worked to ensure the election process could proceed, vigilantly safeguarding voters and their votes, resulting in a generally clean and peaceful election

Filipino Voters

for their patience and perseverance in casting their votes despite the long lines and confusion.

Barely a few days before the election, most of us were distressed to hear news of testing failures, glitches and the seemingly impossible task of delivering replacement flash cards throughout the country in time. Rumors of an election failure that may lead to martial rule or a coup had spread. Still, it was heartwarming to see images of our countrymen climbing mountains in far-flung areas to deliver election materials. And as it turns out, everyone was relieved after the votes had been cast and election results were being announced even before the day ended, a pleasant surprise never experienced in the past. Truly, this is an achievement all Filipinos can be proud of.

Above all, we thank GOD for making it all happen.

HOTEL SOGO SO CLEAN...SO GOOD!

HCS trips UST, bags Shakey's crown

HOPE CHRISTIAN followed continental University of Santo Tomas to a rousing fifth set showdown, finishing with a 25-23, 25-20, 15-25, 25-27, 15-11 victory to retain the Shakey's Girls' Volley League crown at the Araneta gym over the weekend.

Alexandra Denise Tan took charge for the HCS tossers, who flashed resilience to bouncing back from losses in the first and third sets to force a decider and then clinched the crown in a thrilling fifth set.

Tan capped HCS' big day by winning MVP honors while teammates Rica Bermoy and Djanel Cheng took the best receiver and best setter awards.

Meanwhile, Hope and UST join the top teams from Bacolod, Cebu, Davao, Iloilo and Tacloban for the national championship in the Tournament of Champions starting today in Tacloban, Leyte, according to the organizing tournaments.

Hope's victory also capped its sweep of the tournament sponsored by Shakey's Pizza and backed by Tony's Sports, Dunkin' Donuts, Wilkins and Asics.

UST settled for runner-up honors with Kim Dejardo and Alyssa Valdez bagging the best server and best attacker awards, respectively.

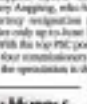
Charisma Sison, also of UST, emerged the top libero while JOEY Yee of Hope was awarded with the coaching honors.

New PSC chair is up to Noynoy, not Peping

MANY NAMES HAVE BEEN MENtioned as possible replacement for Philippine Sports Commission chair Harry Angping, who has insisted in his courtesy resignation that he will stay in office only up to June 30 of this year.

With the top PSC post and the seats of the four commissioners soon to be vacated, the speculation is that Angping's successor will be someone not antagonistic to POC president Peping Cojuangco, who is the uncle of leading presidential bet Noynoy Aquino.

IN HUDDLE



Beth Celis

I have yet to hear or read a direct quote from Noynoy regarding his thoughts on sports, although that's understandable.

Aside from the fact that sports would rank low in Noynoy's list of priorities, President Macapagal-Arroyo is still in Malacañang and it will be in bad taste if the president-elect talks about plans and programs.

But articles have been coming out (not in the Inquirer) where Peping seems to be second-guessing Noynoy on his plans for sports.

* * *

Reading's Steve Hontiveros, entertaining's Mark Joseph, bowling's Ricky Vargas and Manny Lopez, media man Chito Samson and PSC commissioners Ritchie Garcia are only some of the names mentioned as probable successors to Angping and his commissioners.

One of my colleagues, tagged as "The Inquisitor," who usually has the answer to anything and everything when it comes to Philippine sports, couldn't not enlighten me this time.

He was uncharacteristically in the dark as I was.

Like the others, he noticed a litany of names, picking one as the most likely Angping replacement.

He said he had just discussed the matter with a group of POC/PSC luminaries and Manny Lopez was the consensus.

"Manny's father Mel, aside from being a former Manila mayor, was also POC chair in the seventy-90s. As such, he could guide and show Manny the ropes," my colleague said. "Mel is very close to the Aquino family."

* * *

But according to Joey Romasanta, arch classmate and kinship ray work against anybody who may want to ask a government post.

"Both of following up Aquino family ties from during the time when Cory was president. They put a heavy premium on dedication, as it is unlikely that close friends and relatives will be appointed to important positions—or relatives of those friends and friends of relatives. Unless the candidate is truly deserving and qualified," Joey said.

To get a more accurate picture of the projected sports scenario when Noynoy is installed, I had to call Joey, who has worked for decades in the Hacienda Luisita and at the same time is POC spokesperson in charge of media relations.

I couldn't think of anybody in the POC who is closer to Peping than Joey is.

* * *

Joey agrees that it would be practical to have one man heading the POC and the PSC, like Michael Keon did when he was Ginoong Ilog project director.

"But that may no longer be workable now, considering that the POC is a private entity while the PSC is under the government," said the Asian Games chef de mission.

Right now, Joey said there is no threat but for the PSC chairmanship. And Peping is not one to influence the choice of Noynoy.

"At best, Peping may be chosen to be one of Noynoy's advisers for sports. Discreet morning huddlings and monologues you who could give him advice and in-depth insights on Philippine sports," Joey said.

KOBE Bryant scores on a slam, hardly showing any effects of having his knee dropped before the game. —AFP

Kobe torches Suns on one good knee

LOS ANGELES—EVEN ON A BAD KNEE, Kobe Bryant had no problems giving the Los Angeles Lakers an early leg up in the NBA Western Conference finals, beating the Phoenix Suns, 128-107, in Monday's opening game.

Bryant scored 46 points, Lamar Odom added 18 points and 19 rebounds, and the Lakers opened the series with ruthless offensive efficiency.

Pau Gasol had 22 points for the top-seeded Lakers, who won their seventh straight playoff game and snapped the Suns' six-game streak with a phenomenal second half highlighted by Bryant's 21-point third quarter.

"Kobe played a lot of the offense tonight, no doubt," Lakers coach Phil Jackson said.

NBA TODAY
Lone O'Donahue FS
8:30 p.m. — Rockets
Dallas vs. Orlando Magic

The foreboding NBA champions lost the third-seeded Suns at their own up-tempo game when necessary finally running the score is set up Sunday for Bryant in his sixth straight 30-point game. Bryant then tossed his name into a short list of players to do the 1:30:40 point game of his playoff career.

"They played great, one of the best games I've seen them play in the playoffs this season," Suns coach Alvin Gentry said. "Kobe kind of controlled the whole game. When he's making his jumper like that, there's not a whole lot you can do about it."

Game 2 is Wednesday in Staples Center.

Amar'e Stoudemire scored 23 points and Steve Nash had 13 points and 12 assists for Phoenix, who hadn't lost since April 24. Robin Lopez started at center and scored 9 points in his playoff debut, but the Suns couldn't keep up in their first conference finals appearance since 2006.

Both teams swept their second-round series to start their third postseason date in five years, but the Lakers didn't allow a crack off to affect their remarkable execution.

Bryant alternated jumpers and strong drives while Los Angeles pulled away shooting, no problems with rust or nagging injuries despite barely practicing for the past week. His 13-for-23 shooting performance included three 3-pointers and 11 free throws with just one miss.

"He's been very optimistic through the whole week," Jackson said. "He felt like he got more help what [rest] he needed in here."

Bryant's teammates were nearly as impressive despite a game offensive effort by the Suns, who ran into the same height problems faced by Utah and Oklahoma City earlier in the Lakers' playoff run. Los Angeles made 50 percent of its shots and dominated the inside rainmakers in Game 1—in their straight-eight-straight turnover game—while outrebounding the smaller Suns 42-39.

Jackson revealed before the game that Bryant's right knee was drained "a while ago," moving it to the top of the injury list for last season's NBA finals MVP. But Bryant didn't show any obvious effects from his injury as Lakers, and he bounced back up after hitting his head on James Richardson's knee during a drive in the first quarter. AP

Smart Gilas backcourt gets shot in the arm

By Jane Navarro

SMART GILAS GOT A BOOSTER. Seven-footer Ian Vanlandingham arrives in the arrival of US-based Chris Lutz yesterday morning, giving the injury-plagued national team a fresh pair of legs for the May 22 to 30 Doha, Qatar, meet.

The 6-foot-4 swingman from NCAA Division I school Marshall University will immediately practice with the team and play against Sta. Lucia Realty in a tune-up game today.

"Wow, we will decide if we're going to put him in the final lineup for the Championship Cup," said Smart Gilas coach Rajko Toroman during the PSA Forum held at Shakey's UN Avenue.

Toroman is raising expectations on Lutz, saying that the UE collegiate season ended over a month ago and it would be unwise to judge him on his solid performances with Marshall U.

"There's a possibility that he will not be suiting up for us in the Championship Cup but I believe he'll provide more offensive change for this team in the future," said Toroman.

Marvin Lassiter, another player with US NCAA experience, will be out of the Championship Cup after the once-gone-too-geared suffered a knee contusion in his right knee.

Lassiter joined playmaker JV Casio in the injury list after the former La Salle standout sustained a left knee MCL sprain.

TORNOMAN: Lutz 3 months tough.

Without Lassiter and Casio, Smart Gilas was left hobbling in the backcourt with a limited rotation composed of skipper Dale Tiu, co-captain Jimmy Alapag and rookie Jeff Javier.

"The last five months were rough and injuries happened along the way," said Toroman. Sener Gilas will leave for Doha on Thursday night.

Evangelista claims fifth win, seizes solo lead

By Ray Luarca

DAVAO CITY—STREAKING ROBERT JOAN gallera posted back-to-back victories over Genesis Mejia and Austin Jacob Librotan Montoya to grab the sole lead in the boys' under 14 division of the 2010 National Age Group Chess Championships at the MCLC Mall here.

Evangelista put eighth entering 38 entries, Evangelista topped a stiffer eight-round test to post 5.0 points, leaving behind 4.0 pointers Librotan and Vivan Angelo Medina, who beat James Leonardo Venase in the fifth round.

Seventeen Jan Andilyn Pineda and Johara Doroon also continued their romp in the girls' division, trouncing Kirstean Salcedo and Jessa Marie Balleras, respectively.

Pineda, a standout of Ateneo, cruised to her fourth straight win in the under-16 division while Doroon, champion in the 2009 Mingpoon Challenge, matched that feat in the under-20 division of the tournament organized by the National Chess Federation of the Philippines and the City Government of Davao.

Also making her move was Divina Virginia Bacalso after her 6-4 win over Jessa Mae Alfonso for 5.0 points, tossing along Jian Jim Canella (3.5) with three rounds to go.

Co-leaders Dennis Gutierrez Jr. and Maxene Salcedo subdued Adrian Oliveros Yulo and Ronnie Cortez, respectively, to climb to 4.0 points in the boys' under-16 division.

PAUL Lee needs a lot of help from teammates, says his coach.

Warriors want balanced effort, tackle Bulldogs

By Jasmine N. Payo

UNIVERSITY OF THE East tries to boost its quarterfinal bid against a National U side fresh from its First triumph in the PCCU Flying V Invitational Pre-Season International Cup today.

Coach Lawrence Chongson thinks more players should look up the overworked tandem of Paul Lee and Jonjon Martinez when his Warriors collide with the Bulldogs at 3 p.m. at the PCCU Flying V courts in Ayala Juan.

"I think Jun couldn't have prevented," said Chongson. "It's just a matter of who could step up on that first. It's also a matter of who gets the open first."

Admission aims is rebound from its worst loss in NU against the winless St. Benilde at 1 p.m., before struggling Letran takes on Perpetual at 5 p.m.

The Warriors have relentlessly on the veteran duo of Lee and Martinez to fuel them out in four seasons in seven outings to seek third in Group B.

Lee ranked 2nd in scoring against the Jose Rizal Heroes last Saturday, but missed a potential game-winning basket for the Warriors for a 83-81 double overtime heartbreaker.

The Bulldogs hope to build on their first triumph to four games in Group B.

Emmanuel Mbe, a 6-foot-7 rookie from Cameroon, teamed up with Kelsey Hermosisima to power the Bulldogs to a slim 87-85 victory over the Silverstreak Saturday.

"It's like the kind of our backs was taken off," said new Bulldogs coach Eric Gonzales. "But I keep on emphasizing the fighter in them."

The Falcons got for their fourth victory against the Blazers, who remain winless in four outings in Group B of the tournament hosted by Mighty Bond Investor, Total Phils. Corp., San Mateo General Trias, Accel, Filoil Gas Company, Flying V and Sweetbreads.

The Knights try to improve on their 1-3 lineup. A second victory for Mbe, who dropped their first three assignments.

Idle Arenas and University of the Philippines already clinched the first two quarterfinal berths in Group B.

Only the top four teams in each group will advance to the semi-round. With reports from Dennison Ray Galanza and Clemmer Ildefonso Verbales

Peping: PSC chief hopefuls 'guesswork'

By Jose Navarro

PHILIPPINE OLYMPIC COMMITTEE PRESIdent Jose "Peping" Cojuangco Jr. dismissed as "guesswork" the list of names being pursued as the possible replacement for Harry Angping as Philippine Sports Commission chair.

The POC president yesterday said he has yet to receive word from his nephew, Sen. Benigno "Noynoy" Aquino III, who holds an overwhelming lead in the presidential elections, about the matter.

"These are pure speculations," said Cojuangco, referring to the list that includes swimming chief Mark Joseph, basketball icon and former Sen. Robert Jaworski and former PSC chief Philip Ella Juico.

"Let's just wait for the inauguration of the next president before we discuss the matter," added Cojuangco.

Other names in the list of alleged frontrunners for the PSC top post are former PSC commissioner Ritchie Garcia, POC officials Manny Lopez (1st vice president) and Steve Hontiveros (secretary general) and publicist Chito Samson.

MARGARET LAUREEN C. LUMABAS, 12 years old, Grade 7 student of Miriam College won the Overall Championship Ladies crowned at the recently concluded Mabanag Junior Golf Tournament held on 14 May 2010 at the Veterans Memorial Golf Club. She is currently being mentored by her father Prado Lumabas and Laureen and their coaches.

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DID YOU KNOW

METRO Manila has the biggest voting-age population among all regions with 7.45 million. This accounts for about 13 percent of the country's total voting-age population.
Cyril L. Bocobo, Inquirer Research

TRIPLE WHAMMY

3 brods face jail for drugs

TWO BROTHERS WERE SENtenced to life imprisonment by a Pasig court while a third was meted out a jail term of 12 to 15 years for illegal drug offenses last week.

Lenggel Bagol and his brother, Ali, were found guilty of selling, possessing drugs and possessing drug-related equipment. A third brother, Hamid, was convicted on drug possession charges only.

In a May 14 decision, Judge Gilreale Cortes of the Pasig Regional Trial Court Branch 169 sentenced Lenggel and Ali to life imprisonment and ordered them to pay a fine of P500,000 in connection with the drug selling charge.

The court also sentenced the two to serve 12 to 15 years in jail for possessing drugs and drug-related equipment on top of additional fines of P300,000 and P10,000, respectively.

On the other hand, Hamid was meted out a jail term of 12 to 15 years and ordered to pay a fine of P200,000.

Court records showed that on May 8, 2006, the illegal brothers were arrested in an entrapment operation at Molave Compound, Barangay Pinagbuhatan, Pasig City.

The arresting officers said they recovered **from Ali a plastic sachet with traces of a white** crystalline substance, several empty plastic sachets, a lighter and seven strips of aluminum foil.

Lenggel, on the other hand, yielded a plastic sachet and a rolled-up aluminum foil while PO1 Vilmore Quinlop recalled that he seized a plastic sachet from Hamid.

Insp. Lourchelito Cajes, who conducted an examination of the plastic sachets and aluminum foil strip, said all of the items tested positive for methamphetamine hydrochloride or shabu.

The three brothers, however, denied the charges, saying they were in Ali's house watching television when the police barged in and arrested them.

Ali and Lenggel testified that they were told to give P100,000 in exchange for their freedom and when Ali said they had no money they were charged with violating the dangerous drugs law.

However, in his decision, Cortes said the testimonies of the arresting officers were more credible compared to the mere denials of the accused. — Ezra Mekin Reyes

Ex-cager's son nabbed by cops for illegal drugs

By John Paul Bacobo

AN ALLEGED SON OF A FORMER BASKETball player was arrested by the police over the weekend for allegedly selling illegal drugs.

Members of the Quezon City Police District's Anti-Illegal Drugs Special Operations Task Group conducted an entrapment operation on Sunday which led to the arrest of Andrew Cabana.

The 22-year-old Cabana, a resident of Barangay Pasong Tamo in Quezon City, is a son of Jimmy Cabana, a former player of the Philippine Basketball Association, according to the police.

ISA CABRES Jan

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14-hour fire destroys tires stocked at cement factory

TWO FIREMEN take a break after a long battle with a fire which hit a stockpile of old tires stored at the compound of a cement factory in Manila. The fire raged for over 14 hours before it was finally placed under control. ARNOLD ALMACEN

By Jeanmarie I. Andrade

FIREMEN BATTLED A BLAZE that raged for more than 14 hours in a cement factory compound at Manila Harbour Centre in Tondo, Manila, which damaged some P5 million worth of property.

Members of the Manila Fire District had a hard time putting out the fire which gobbled up some 5,000 old car tires stocked at the Taiheiyo Cement Corp. Inc. (once of the thick, suffocating smoke which made it hard for them to see and breathe.

Arson investigator PO2 Louie Hernandez said the blaze started at 12:10 p.m. on Monday and was put out at 2:20 a.m. yesterday.

There was no report of anyone being killed or injured, he added.

Bienvenido said the fire damaged a portion of the factory which is now being used by Solid Cement Corp.

"The smoke from the burning tires caused more damage to the factory than the actual fire," he said.

The cause of the fire was still under investigation, Bienvenido added.

Manila Police District Station 1 commander Supt. Roderick Mariano said that residents in the area were not affected by the fire because the compound was situated far from houses.

He also said that the old tires stocked in the compound were meant to be disposed of when the fee broke out.

Kho's mom posts bail on libel raps

By John M. Aurelio

THE MOTHER OF CELEBRITY surgeon Dr. Hayden Kho posted a bail bond on Tuesday to secure the release of libel filed by actress Katrina Halili.

Irene Kho posted bail of P200,000 through her lawyer, Nicole Polino, before Quezon City Judge Lourdes Dumlao of the Quezon City Regional Trial Court Branch 86.

The two counts of libel were filed by Halili after the video files, in two television interviews, accused the actress of trafficking her son to drugs.

Earlier, Halili also said Hayden is videotaping some of their private encounters together without her knowledge.

Some of the footage were later uploaded on the Internet.

Dumlao, meanwhile, said he would ask the court to make a determination of probable cause of his client's indictment before the court.

"We decided to post bail rather than waiting the motion for judicial determination of probable cause because it is the standard thing to do for the protection of my client," he said.

The Department of Justice earlier approved a resolution by Quezon City Assistant City Prosecutor Rafael Villaflor, who had dismissed Halili's complaint against the video files.

A matter of the court said the judge had yet to act a date for the Quezon City Assistant City Prosecutor Rafael Villaflor, who had dismissed Halili's complaint against the video files.

A matter of the court said the judge had yet to act a date for the Quezon City Assistant City Prosecutor Rafael Villaflor, who had dismissed Halili's complaint against the video files.

Ex-cager's ...

From page A25

Cops investigator PO2 Wilfredo Cerona said arresting operatives set up an entrapment operation after learning that the younger Cabais was selling illegal drugs.

At around 2 a.m. on Sunday, undercover police officers met with the suspect at a coffee shop on Roxas Boulevard Avenue and bought P300 worth of marijuana from him, Cerona added.

Immediately after the transaction, the police arrested the suspect, Cabais and seized from him several grams of marijuana placed inside a plastic bag and hidden in a pack of cigarettes.

HOME IS WHERE THE HERD IS A cow chews cud as it rests outside a hammock strung up inside an enclosure where goats in North Triangle in Quezon City are kept. JONATHAN CELLONA

Republic of the Philippines
DEPARTMENT OF LABOR AND EMPLOYMENT
National Capital Region
DOLE NCR Building, 901 Rizal Dr.
Ermita, Manila

NOTICE OF FILING OF APPLICATIONS FOR ALIEN EMPLOYMENT PERMITS (AEP/S)

Notice is hereby given that the following companies/employers have filed with this Regional Office applications for Alien Employment Permits:

Name and Address of Company/Employer	Name of Foreign National/ Citizenship	Position
INTERMODAL CONTAINER TERMINAL SERVICES, INC. 10 Anson Rd., #07-15 Faceta Rd., North Harbor, Manila	Aida Rubino Philippines/ Norwegian	Project Manager
ALCATEL LUCENT PHILIPPINES, INC. 2nd Floor Mega Plaza, 358 San Gil Puyat Ave., Makati City	Alain Leo Teo Singaporean	Head, Customer Support
BUCHANAN BUSINESS PROCESSING (PHILIPPINES) INCORPORATED 25/F PBCom Tower, 6795 Ayala Ave., Makati City	Eugene Cimanesan Indian	IT Manager - Infrastructure Services
FRANCO PHILIPPINES CORPORATION 23/F Wynn Corporate Center II Villages A Road, Ortigas Center, Pasig	Alex Pierre Marc Kunzer	Technical Consultant
MANPOWER OUTSOURCING SERVICES INC. 4/F Bonanza Bldg., 8750 Ayala Ave., Makati City	Rubina Rosalia Leonard Hire Zaheer	SCHOOL Master HOLE Consultant
SHI PENSION HOSEI CORP. 31/F/R Antonio Di Bego Bldg., 2nd St., Bonifacio Global City, Taguig	Jin Hong Park Korean	Operations Manager
GEM PLASTIC MANUFACTURING INC. 2816 Cordero Street, Diliman, Quezon City	Lilia Chua Wong Chinese	Consultant
LEADING EMPIRE CORPORATION 6/F 375 Senator Gil J. Puyat Ave., Makati City	Gamboda Rahman Indonesian	Chief
JACOBS LENDINGS FINANCING CORP. 3548 P.S. Cruz St., Sampaloc, Manila	Dawit Kasir Indian	Sales Representative
JACOBS LENDINGS FINANCING CORP. 3548 P.S. Cruz St., Sampaloc, Manila	Hemchandra Kumar Indian	Marketing Officer
ACE GLOBAL CONTACT SYSTEMS PHILIPPINES, INC. 5th Ave. North Bypass, McKinley Hill, Fort Bonifacio, Taguig City	Dhirendra Lata Rai Nepalese Curtail Mandal	Account Manager
NEW WORLD ELECTRONIC PROGRAMMING SERVICES, INC. 10F GMT Mega Manpower Village III, Bonifacio Avenue, Pasong Tamo, Quezon City	Amal Gupta Indian	Business Analyst - Team Leader
HERCULES CREATIVE CONSTRUCTION INC. 12-1201 EDSA-Ayala Mega Plaza, 3058 Ave. cor. Guadalupe, Cubao, Quezon City	Jeongyong Ro Korean	Manager
SOUTH KOREAN CONSULATE ASSOCIATES IN THE PHILIPPINES INC. Philtrust Business Center, 811 D. A. Santos Ave., Parañaque City	Jhunnagolf Seo Korean	Operations Manager
APAC LEARNING SERVICES, INC. - PHILIPPINE BRANCH Lot 7 Cyber Park, Araneta Center, Cubao, Quezon City	Vikash Kumar Jagdish Indian	Associate Facilitator
LEC MARKETING 20 Poinsettia, Mendiola Village, Talayan Subdivision, Project, Quezon City	Ashish Bisht Nepalese	Customer Service Agent
LEC MARKETING 20 Poinsettia, Mendiola Village, Talayan Subdivision, Project, Quezon City	Bishnu Kumar Jagdish Nepalese	Customer Service Agent
LEC MARKETING 20 Poinsettia, Mendiola Village, Talayan Subdivision, Project, Quezon City	Krishna Kumar Nepalese	Customer Service Agent
LEC MARKETING 20 Poinsettia, Mendiola Village, Talayan Subdivision, Project, Quezon City	Kumar Raj Pradhan Nepalese	Customer Service Agent
LEC MARKETING 20 Poinsettia, Mendiola Village, Talayan Subdivision, Project, Quezon City	Raju Kumar Singh Nepalese	Customer Service Agent
CHINA OILFIELD SERVICES SUBSIDIARY ASIA (BVI) - METRO PHILIPPINE BRANCH 10/F 72 Amorsolo Life Corporate Center, Herrera Street, Salcedog Village, Makati City	Logan Ye Chinese	Land Operations Engr.

If you have any information/objection to the above-mentioned applications please communicate with the Regional Director.

RAMUNDO C. ADRIANO
Regional Director

(Publish May 19, 2010)

REPUBLIC OF THE PHILIPPINES
OFFICE OF THE SOLICITOR GENERAL
134 Amorsolo St., Legaspi Village
Makati City
Tel. Nos. 836-1501 to 09
Fax No. 817-3842

REQUEST FOR EXPRESSION OF INTEREST FOR THE PROCUREMENT OF CONSULTING SERVICES FOR QUALITY MANAGEMENT SYSTEM CERTIFICATE TO ISO 9001:2008

The Office of the Solicitor General (OSG), through the current appropriation Act for (2010), intends to apply the total sum of (Php 500,000.00) being the approved Budget for the Contract (ABC) to payments under the contract for the Procurement of Consulting Services for Quality Management System Certificate to ISO 9001:2008 (Php 300,000.00) and to Procurement of Services for ISO 9001:2008 Certification (Php 200,000.00). Bids received in excess of the ABC shall be automatically rejected at the opening of their financial proposals.

Interested consultants must submit their eligibility documents on or before May 25, 2010 but not to the attendance at the Conference Room, 7th Floor Hongkong Bank Building, a pre-bid conference, however, will be held on May 20, 2010. Bidding documents are available at the Bid Room (OSG Building) for the amount of P 1,000.00.

Bidding is open to all interested bidders, whether local or foreign, subject to the conditions for eligibility provided in the 2009 of the IRR.

Makati City, May 14, 2010.

(SGD.) **BANILO D. LEYNA**
Acting Executive Secretary
BAC (Bids and Awards Committee)

(Pub. May 19, 2010)

Philippine International Trading Corporation

PITC

INVITATION TO BID

Supply and Delivery of Brand New Portable Tanks and Bulk Tanks
Re-Tender/Re-Bid for Re-Bid (PMT)
Bid Ref. No. 2010 – 017 (Re-bid)
Premium Bid Pkg. No. 2010-017
Approved Budget for the Contract: Php5,000,000.00

Item No.	Qty.	Description	Unit Price	Total Price	Brand Name, Model, Manufacturer, Country of Origin, Year of Manufacture (Bidder to fill out)	Manufacturer's Authorization (Yes/No)	Compliance with Technical Specifications (Yes/No)
1	10 Pcs.	Portable Tank (Bulk Water) 1000 Liters	4,500,000.00	45,000,000		100,000.00	1,000.00
2	10 Pcs.	Bulk Tanks (Water) 5,000 Liters	1,000,000.00	10,000,000		10,000.00	1,000.00
		TOTAL	5,500,000.00	55,000,000		100,000.00	

Terms and Conditions:

1. The Philippine International Trading Corporation (PITC) invites PHILIPPINE REPUBLIC PRODUCTS to submit sealed bids for the supply and delivery of Brand New Portable Tanks and Bulk Tanks as per Terms and Conditions stipulated in the Bid Documents.
2. Bidders must submit a Bid Bond, duly and properly executed in favor of the PITC, equivalent to two percent (2%) of the total bid price.
3. PITC and PMT may invite bids for the Supply and Delivery of Brand New PORTABLE TANKS AND BULK TANKS to be delivered in accordance with the Terms and Conditions of the PITC. A separate bid security shall be required for each item bid. Failure to submit a bid security for each item bid shall be a ground for disqualification with respect to the item for which a bid security was not submitted.
4. Bidders may submit bids for one (1) or more items but must submit separate bids for each item. Bidders may also submit bids for all the items in the Bid Documents. However, bidders shall not be allowed to submit more than one (1) bid per item. Separate bid envelopes shall be used for each item bid.
5. Bidding is open to Filipino citizens/partnerships, corporations duly organized under the laws of the Philippines and to citizens/partnerships or corporations of a country the laws or regulations of which grant similar rights or privileges to Philippine citizens/partnerships or corporations pursuant to Republic Act No. 5183 and its Implementing Rules and Regulations (IRR).
6. The Invitation to Bid and Bid Documents may be downloaded from the website of the Philippine Government Electronic Procurement System (PhilGEPS) and Philippine International Trading Corporation (PITC) at www.philgeps.gov.ph and www.pitc.com.ph respectively. The bidding documents may also be purchased from the Bids and Awards Committee Secretariat upon presentation of proof of payment in the amount of Five Thousand Pesos (P5,000.00) per set.
7. The Schedule of Bidding Activities is as follows:

ACTIVITIES	TIME	VENUE
a. Bids shall be received at 10:00 a.m. (Philippine Standard Time) on the last day of the bidding.	Bids shall be received at 10:00 a.m. (Philippine Standard Time) on May 18, 2010	Bids shall be received at 10th Floor Multinational Bancorporation Center, 6805 Ayala Avenue, Makati City
b. Pre-Bid Conference (Optional but highly recommended for non-accredited contractors)	2:00 PM, 20 May 2010	10th Floor Multinational Bancorporation Center, 6805 Ayala Avenue, Makati City
c. Bid Opening and Opening of Bids	10:00 AM, 18 June 2010	10th Floor Multinational Bancorporation Center, 6805 Ayala Avenue, Makati City

8. Interested bidders may obtain further information from the BAC Secretariat at the 10th Floor Multinational Bancorporation Center, 6805 Ayala Avenue, Makati City, Telephone Nos. 811-8181 to 89 and Fax No. 811-8182.

Chair, BAC for Premium Bid Packages

(SGD.) ATTY. ROLANDO M. ANGELES
Chairman, Bids and Awards Committee

Posting: 10th May to 18th June 2010 (PhilGEPS)
Publication: 19th May 2010 (Daily Bread)

(Pub. May 19, 2010)

METROBRIEFS

Arroyo a poor sport, says Iloko

VICE Mayor Francisco "Isko Moreno" Domagoso yesterday in Ilocano boosted Secretary Leo Echegaray's chances to succeed Bad Ingod to Mayor Alfredo Lim in the May 10 election. "As Mayor Lim said, this is a fresh month and each family is free to choose kasi of himself. "Ninamo-ano ti statements ng ating alkalde tiad ni Administration and ni Executive Secretary Leo Echegaray," he said in Ilocano. Moreno also said that Manila was selling what materials for other candidates for his "mayor for another" contest. Bautista Documentary conducted by the city council of pangasinan. Lim recently enrolling a garnering 208,410 votes compared to Alfredo's 181,594, for a margin of 19,816 votes. Lim and Domagoso both are reelection bids.

Jeanmarie I. Andrade and Pierre Duarte

No more, MMDA tells winners

THE DISTRICT OF THE Manila Development Authority (MMDA) yesterday urged winners in the recent elections to do away with banners and streamers thanking those who voted for them since these are usually add to the garbage materials and filling the metropolis' major drains. MMDA Chair Oscar Inocentes said that instead of putting up banners, candidates should thank their constituents through public service.

"Please stop putting up new banners, streamers or posters. We will never finish our cleanup if you keep on adding new ones," Inocentes said. "The best thing can do is to thank their constituents on a cleanup drive in their communities," he said, adding that a good example last if to use a big help as we have at the MMDA," he said in a statement.

Nikko Dizon

Body, severed arm found

A BODY minus its left hand and a left arm without a hand were found on the body of a man lying at the corner of Dagohoy Boulevard and Bonifacio Street in Sta. Cruz, Manila, before dawn yesterday. The victim's hands were found while there was a gap on his mouth. The police said he has been strangled to death. Those hands after the discovery of the body, is suspected as the chief suspect of his. Police Crime Investigator PO2 Lester Evangelista said the severed hands of the victim were found when they spotted a large object wrapped in a white blanket on the sidewalk. The still unidentified victim was described as between 25 and 30 years old, at least 5 '5" tall, of medium build and dressed in maong T-shirt and blue maong pants. When police officer Eliezer Mercado was on his way to work as a teaching at the Polytechnic University of the Philippines when he saw a package containing a human arm. He immediately reported his find to the police.

Jeanmarie I. Andrade and Pierre Duarte

The WORLD

Editor Lamberto B. Glocoo

China appliance tycoon jailed

BEIJING—AN APPLIance retailer who was once China's richest businessman was sentenced to 14 years for insider trading and other crimes on Tuesday, the latest in a series of Chinese tycoons jailed for financial offenses.

HUANG GUANGYU: A warning to other businesspeople engaged in illegal operations. AFP/FILE

Huang Guangyu built Gome Electrical into China's biggest appliance retailer and was estimated in 2008 to be worth $6.3 billion. His abrupt fall reflected the uncertain status of entrepreneurs in China, where an economic boom has created dozens of billionaires but complaints of misconduct are widespread.

A Beijing court also sentenced Huang of bribing officials and unspecified "illegal operations," according to a statement by prosecutors. The ruling was reported by state television on its national midday news, possibly as a warning to other businesspeople.

A receptionist for Huang's lawyer, Yan Pinchang, said the defense team would not comment.

Accusations of bribery, tax evasion and the collusion of corrupt officials in financial circles are common in China. Successful businesspeople often are linked to Communist Party figures and prosecutions can be prompted by political struggles, though it is unclear what triggered Huang's case.

Huang, born in poverty, started out as a teenage clothing trader and his success story seemed emblematic of China's throwcaution-to-the-winds economic boom.

He was detained in November 2008 and resigned as Gome's chairman the following year.

Beijing state changed with paying $670,000 to bribes to five of Huang and insider trading of Gome shares worth $284 million, said the state-run China News Service.

Earlier reports said he was accused of paying bribes to win approval of Gome's stock market listing in Hong Kong.

One of those officials, a former deputy director of the Ministry of Public Security's economic crimes division, Ma Huaide, went on trial in March on charges of taking $204,000 from Huang, according to earlier news reports. Its verdict has been announced.

Huang ranked No. 1 on a 2008 list of China's wealthiest businesspeople compiled by Rupert Hoogewerf, a researcher in Shanghai. Down after his detention, Huang was No. 17 on last year's list with a net worth of $1.4 billion.

A string of prominent Chinese entrepreneurs have been jailed after incurring ahead of the law.

Mou Qizhong, who also once held the title of China's richest man, is serving a life sentence for bank fraud. Shanghai developer Zhou Zhengyi was sentenced in 2009 to 16 years for bribery, tax evasion forgery and embezzlement.

Such cases highlight Chinese obscure tax evasion and widespread ties between ambitious entrepreneurs and political figures, said Joseph Cheng, chair of the Contemporary China Research Center at the City University of Hong Kong.

"Corruption is quite rampant in China and businesspeople in general believe they have to offer bribes to get transactions done," Cheng said.

"When political leaders get rich scandals, either because of corruption or because of factional struggles, the business groups associated with them tend to get inevitable also," he said.

Huang might face additional problems. The government said in 2008 he also was suspected of share price manipulation, money laundering, illicit asset transfers and tax evasion. AP

Taliban bomber kills 18, including 5 Americans

KABUL—A TALIBAN SUICIDE car bomber struck a Nato convoy in Kabul on Tuesday, killing six of its service members, five of them Americans, officials said. Twelve civilians, children also died—many of them in a public bus in suicide traffic.

Forty-seven other people were wounded in the blast, the first major attack in the capital since February when suicide bombers struck two small hotels in the city center. That attack killed 16 people and led Afghan police to pledge that they would tighten security and surveillance.

Police have publicized a number of attacks of suicide bombers since then, but Tuesday's bombing was a reminder that the city's defenses can still be penetrated by determined attackers.

Taliban spokesperson Zabihullah Mujahid told The Associated Press in a phone call from an undisclosed location that the bomber was a man from Kabul and his car was packed with 750 kilograms of explosives. The target of the attack was the foreign convoy, he said.

The area around the blast site was littered with debris as US troops and Afghan policemen held a security cordon around wrecked cars, the bus and sports utility vehicles. There were no obvious military vehicles, but Nato troops often travel in unmarked SUVs in the capital. AP

WORLDBRIEFS

6 Somali pirates sentenced to death

SANAA—A Yemeni court on Tuesday sentenced six Somali pirates to death and jailed six others for 10 years each for hijacking a Yemeni oil tanker and killing two other crew in April last year. In the first verdict of its kind against Somali pirates, a Yemeni court of first instance convicted the defendants for "attempting to seize the Yemeni oil tanker... killing two crew members and wounding four others," according to the verdict. The hijackers had forcibly captured the oil tanker Sirius Star after it set sail from Al-Mukalla port in southeast Yemen on April 30, 2009. Yemeni forces recovered the ship the following day after a gunfight with the pirates. AFP

Suicide attack kills 11 people in Pakistan

DERA ISMAIL KHAN—A suicide bomber on a bicycle killed 11 people on Tuesday when he attacked a police patrol in an area of northwestern Pakistan where many citizens fled last year to escape a large military offensive against the Taliban. The attack, which killed three police officers and eight civilians, occurred as the patrol vehicle traveled through the town of Dera Ismail Khan, police said. AP

Obama execs face grilling on oil spill

WASHINGTON—Last week, it was oil executives who faced the wrath of lawmakers eager to take some blame for the massive oil spill spreading in the Gulf of Mexico. On Tuesday, later on Secretary Ken Salazar and other federal officials will come under questioning for what the government did—or did not do—to prevent the oil spill, and now they have suspended once oil started streaming into the Gulf of Mexico. AP

India plans air strikes against Maoists

NEW DELHI—India's home minister called for the government on Tuesday to consider using the Air Force against Maoist rebels in the wake of an insurgent attack on a train that killed 31 police officers and civilians. The rebel strike on Monday in a remote area in the state of Chhattisgarh came despite a government offensive aimed at rooting out the Maoists, also known as Naxals, who have been fighting one of Asia's longest rebellions. AP

Oldest Mesoamerican pyramid tomb

MEXICO CITY—Archaeologists in southern Mexico announced on Monday they had discovered a 2,700-year-old tomb of a dignitary inside a pyramid that may be the oldest such burial documentation in Mesoamerica. The tomb held a man aged around 50, who was buried with jade collars, pyrite and obsidian artifacts and ceramic vessels, archaeologist Emiliano Gallaga said the tomb dated to between 700 and 1000 BC. AP

Guitarist falls ill after taking Viagra

BERLIN—Tokio Hotel guitarist Tom Kaulitz told a German newspaper on Friday he fell ill after taking two viagra tablets and could not eat straight for days. Kaulitz, 20, told Bild newspaper that someone offered him a Viagra tablet during a concert tour of Asia. After first turning down the offer, Kaulitz said he decided to try one. He said a little later he took a second one and felt ill. Reuters

This Aquada bathroom cabinet is useful in storing toiletries and sundries

This Flora bathroom cabinet is a great addition to any bathroom

Bathworks at Ace Builders

As a one-stop shop for building homes, as well as makeovers and renovations, ACE Builders has a wide selection of anything and everything you need to construct your dream home.

It has a wide selection of steel bars for solid foundations, cement for building homes, and a lot of woodwork - plywood panels, baseboards and cornices - for walls, floors, and ceilings. It also has everything you need for your electrical and plumbing systems as well as accessories for home interiors.

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IN THIS ISSUE

■ **Biz Buzz: Cry 'midnight** deal' to protect turf /B2
■ **Asean trade pact** comes into force /B7

Editor Raul G. Marcelo ● Assistant Editor Corrie S. Mariano

BUSINESS

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BANK

Ayala group bags $852-M BPO deal

Biggest ever contract in legal outsourcing industry

By Paolo G. Montecillo

AYALA-LED BUSINESS PROCESS OUTSOURCING (BPO) company Integreon Inc. has been tapped to provide back-office legal services to one of the world's biggest law firms.

Local conglomerate Ayala Corp. yesterday announced that its unit Integreon has signed a 10-year contract to provide "middle-office," nonbillable services to United Kingdom-based CMS Cameron McKenna LLP.

The contract, worth $852 million, is now the biggest of its kind the legal outsourcing industry has ever seen.

The services to be subcontracted to Integreon includes substantial portions of accounting and finance, human resources and technology, marketing and communications, licensing and development, library and information services, research, information technology, facilities and other services.

"By outsourcing nonbillable tasks to Integreon, which is wholly owned by Livelt, Ayala Corp.'s BPO holding company, CMS Cameron McKenna can focus on its core competency—providing high-end legal and tax services," Ayala Corp. said in a disclosure.

"CMS Cameron McKenna's decision to outsource its Middle Office is part of its ambitious and progressive strategy to create a new model for law firms," the company said.

By hiring Integreon, which is

MORE, B2

Stocks end lower

STOCKS RIPPED ON MORE PROFIT-taking yesterday as investors fretted jitters over the volatility in global markets.

The more-short Philippine

A Lopez Group Company
First Gen
The Energy to Core. The Power to Core.
The grass is greener on our side.
Our EDC Geothermal Power Plants in Leyte.
At First Gen, we make use of our country's rich resource of clean and green energy.
As the country's leading electricity generating company, our plants use indigenous fuel resources like geothermal, natural gas and hydroelectric energy. Our aim is to meet the Filipinos' growing demand for power and help the country achieve energy self-sufficiency with the smallest carbon footprint possible.

Ayala . . .

From page B1

the world's leading provider of high-value BPO services, the firm has said its business infrastructure could soon be scaled easily for growth.

"We chose Infogenesis because it is the only firm with a global network of experienced professionals that can meet our needs," said Thomas Weems, managing partner for CEO Concept In Korea.

CMS Infotech Infotech is the UK-headquartered investor of CMS with 13 offices in the United Kingdom and Central and Eastern Europe. The firm has 132 facility partners across cities more than 1,000 locations.

The Ayala group acquired Infogenesis in 2006, when the company's annual revenues were at $13 million.

Cry 'midnight deal' to protect turf

CRYSIS "MIDnight deal" has long been the sign during times of political transition, and developments of recent weeks are no different. In particular, the imminent offloading by Philippine Seven of Oil Co. (PSOC) and its unit, PSOC Depot-Subic Corp., have been estimated about 4o-calling the presentation of its main asset — a 30-percent stake in the lucrative Consign-Bilihan gas station and gas field.

What few know is that this presentation has been in the works since 2008, when the government first tried to sell it for $311 million (Then Secretary Romy Neri pulled the plug on the deal for the last time). Investor right-to-match holders Shell and Chevron (high and dry).

The government tried again two years ago, hiring Citibank, which suggested a side via IPO. (The idea fizzled due to poor market conditions and poor deal structuring, according to our sources).

Last year, a consortium led by owners of Philippine Seven bid the sale of the asset again, and it seemed as though a state-owned but not-quite-Shell of the Philippines was able to convince two potential buyers (no surprise who, as there are only two groups buying left and right nowadays) to consent to a floor price of at least $400 million.

So said Infotel, officials of PSOC and PSOC-TC soon began trying to scuttle the deal by branding it as a midnight deal (never mind that they've been trying to sell it for five years now!). So what gives? Sources familiar with the deal say that these officials sound like they're trying to cajole the employees into the new Noynoy administration by sowing information and making selective noise to confuse (using "midnight deal" being a tried and trusted tactic).

The sad thing is that the government lost as much as P7 billion in potential revenues, all because some people refuse to give up their perks, lamented the sources.

Dayrit L. Lucio

BIZ BUZZ

By the staff

Ateneo board shuffle

WITH THE curiously exit of businessman and philanthropist **Manuel Pangilinan** as chair of the Ateneo de Manila University's board of trustees, many in the alumni community immediately bemoaned the impact of the move on the school's UNAP basketball team. In particular, most were worried about the team's chances of making it two-peat to the upcoming season, coming off back-to-back championships over The Int'l Academy.

Well, the good news, according to insiders, is that SHE has agreed to stay on as manager of the Ateneo Blue Eagles, which has flourished under his tutelage and support.

As for heading the school, the board of trustees has appointed Jesuit **Edward De Jesus** as chair for the remaining year of SHE's unfinished three-year term.

Go team Ateneo! Not to say those days of serving for four continuous terms on the board to bring 11 years. He earned the nod from his fellow trustees and CEO **Ernesto Tanmantiong**. *Dexter L. Layug*

More parking please

IT'S NOT only oil refiner Petron Corp. that's moving to the backyard of its new parent company, San Miguel Corp. The sprawling compound in the Ortigas central business district will soon need even more parking space as Bank of Commerce (which also leases its headquarters in the Manila's compound).

That word is be free, though, as Bank of Commerce will have to buy office space from San Miguel Properties Inc. in the latter's 34-story office building.

Of course, by keeping all of its children within the family compound, the diversifying corporate parent hopes to realize more synergies and hopefully more cost savings, too. *Boris C. Dardoo*

The Insular Life Assurance Company, Ltd.

NOTICE OF MEETING

2010 Annual Regular Members' Meeting

Notice is hereby given that the 2010 Annual Regular Members' Meeting of The Insular Life Assurance Co., Ltd. will be held on Wednesday, **26 May 2010**, at **9:30 P.M.** in the Insular Life Corporate Center, Insular Life Drive, Filinvest Corporate City, Alabang, Muntinlupa City. The agenda of the meeting is as follows:

1. Proof of Notice of Meeting
2. Report of the Credentials Committee and Proof of Presence of Quorum
3. Reading and Approval of the Minutes of the 2009 Annual Regular Members' Meeting held on 27 May 2009
4. Annual Report to Policyholders
5. Ratification of all the Acts and Resolutions of the Executive Committee and the Board of Trustees from the date of the last annual members' meeting up to the date of this meeting
6. Amendment of the Articles of Incorporation to Extend the Corporate Term
7. Election of three (3) Trustees
8. Appointment of the Statutory Auditor and Fixing of its Remuneration; and
9. Adjournment

Every qualified Member who owns an insurance policy in force for at least one (1) year as of thirty (30) days prior to 26 May 2010, or as of 26 April 2010, is entitled to vote. Each Member shall be entitled to one (1) vote only at such meeting or any adjournments thereof, regardless of the number of policies or amount of insurance he owns.

Any Member entitled to vote may be present in person or represented by proxy. However, no Member's proxy shall be recognized or be entitled to vote at such meeting unless a duly signed appointment of proxy has been filed with the Office of the Corporate Secretary at least ten (10) working days before the date of the meeting at which the proxy will attend, or not later than 12 May 2010.

To facilitate proper identification, please bring appropriate identification documents (Passport, Driver's License, SSS/GSIS/BIR IDs or other similar documents).

Signed this 30th day of April 2010 at Muntinlupa City.

(Sgd.)
ATTY. BENJAMIN G. DE JESUS
Corporate Secretary

Stocks end lower

From page B1

Stock Exchange composite index shed 24.24 points or 0.74 percent to close at 3,260.07, weighed down mainly by the weakness of the property services and mining/oil sectors.

But value turnover was thin at P3.07 billion, suggesting that investors lacked conviction in either leading or outstanding equities. There were 39 advancers as against 64 decliners and 66 unchanged stocks.

Boris C. Bershan

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The BOSSINGS of Brothers Burger give hot advice on making the burger business well done.

When the going gets tough, the tough get grilling. In the Asian financial crisis of late 90's, three brothers reinvented the burger. Martin, a real estate broker, and DJ, a stockbroker, teamed up with their brother Quito, a chef fresh from prestigious California Culinary Academy to open Brothers Burger on June 23, 1999. Quito had perfected his recipe for a burger as par to none with the 5-star hotels and the fancy burger places in the US. The run-of-the-mill flatfood variety burger soon turned into a gourmet masterpiece.

Now on its 10th year, Brothers Burger still serves up the same consistent 1-pound burger as it was first introduced. And despite copycats and other hurdles, they have emerged on top of the burger chain. With 19 branches nationwide, 14 owned and 5 franchised, Martin Jose shares some of the secrets that keep their burger business smoking.

"When business started, there were a lot of obstacles. We had to loan from our parents. And suppliers required cash. We were doing inventory everyday. When Brothers clicked, we finally earned the suppliers' trust." Locations were vital, prime locations were sourced and the store locations in Ortigas and Rockwell became the first and second branches. Brothers' secret is in its consistency. The quality of the food has remained the same throughout the years, thanks to its central commissary. They even airfreight the supplies to as far as Cebu and Davao. Brothers Burger remains steadfast to its mission to maintain quality that is why they are careful when choosing franchisees. Franchisees must be hands-on in maintaining the quality of the product. Training was also necessary.

Martin Jose's Tip: Trust technology. It will save you time and effort. See how it can help you.

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Brothers Burger is poised to dominate the burger market again this year with its Designers Burger line. From tough times, these brothers have indeed risen to the top.

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San Miguel to keep majority stake in SMB

Vista Land net income hit ₱694M in first quarter

RESIDENTIAL PROPERTY DEVELOPER Vista Land & Lifescapes Inc. reported a 17.1-percent growth in its first quarter profit to ₱694 million from year-ago level on higher revenue from real estate sales.

Core net income was up by 19.2 percent from year-ago level.

Vista Land booked ₱2.68 billion in revenues for the quarter, up from ₱2.45 billion in the same period last year.

In a briefing yesterday, Vista Land senior vice president for finance Ricardo "Nic A. de Jesus assumed a 30-percent year-on-year growth in order for the first quarter to ₱9.05 billion.

"We expected stability in the improving market conditioned by launching nine more projects over the last two months," he said.

With the first quarter revenue of ₱2.68 billion, De said the firm would likely meet its full-year goal of ₱13.5 billion.

About 60 percent of its market consists of overseas Filipino workers (OFW) buyers and this segment has not shown any weakening in demand for sale.

In terms of revenue source, the Bacoor, Cavite-based homebuilder's 77.1 percent of total revenue was made in the quarter, including those sold by its unit located on selling the Camella brand outside Metro Manila. The brand offers affordable and middle-income residential units worth ₱1.5 million and below. — Boris C. Dumlao

New bottling plants planned

By Doris C. Dumlao

SAN MIGUEL Corp. plans to keep a majority stake in Bataan Sun Miguel Brewery Inc., which the conglomerate expects to benefit from improved bottling efficiencies, acquisitions of solid brand-based liquor business and a potential boom in demand in the Visayas and Mindanao.

In a briefing after the company's annual stockholders' meeting yesterday, SMB chief finance Ang said the brewery unit, which currently enjoys a market share of 90 percent, would likely post a double-digit profit growth this year.

The beer unit is also working on the relocation timeline for Bulacan line , which is recently acquired from the parent company.

"After that, we will do a tender offer to buy out other shareholders of Ginebra," Ang said.

Since the 2001-listed liquor business is folded into SMB, Ang said the consolidated entity would have additional processing capacity to fund expansion in case opportunities arise.

He said SMB, which last year made history in the local bourse market until it record business size of ₱314 billion, was open to tapping the peso bond market once "if there's opportunity."

He said SMC would keep a majority stake in the consolidated solid business and sell only anything in excess of 51 percent to partner Ilaro Holdings Co. Ltd. The Japanese beer giant owns 48.29 percent of SMB.

Backed by both San Miguel and Edo, Asp said SMB would be on the look-out for acquisition opportunities in Iloilo, Antique, Boracay and other hotel liquor businesses in the Philippines or overseas.

This year, he said, SMB's capital spending would be anywhere in between Guidelines had been suspended ready for the last 12 years.

He said any additional spending would be for the expansion of the bottling operations, beginning with a new bottling line in Sta. Rosa, Laguna this year. New plants will also be put up in Cagayan de Oro and Davao region.

The new bottling plant in Sta. Rosa will increase SMB's bottling capacity by 22 million additional cases this year and is intended to serve Quezon, Batangas and Laguna. The new bottling plant was estimated to cost about ₱1.5 billion.

FPH posts Q1 profit of ₱24.6B

LOPEZ-LED FIRST PHILIPPINE Holdings Corp. posted a net income of ₱24.6 billion in the first quarter, mainly due to the sale of an additional 6.6-percent stake in power retailer Manila Electric Co.

Aided by the equity contribution from FPH, parent company Lopez Holdings Corp. swung to profitability in the first quarter with a net income of ₱1.02 billion from a net loss of ₱376 million attributable to parent firm's equity holders a year ago.

Without the ₱23.6 billion gain from the Meralco stake sale to First Pacific group's Beacon Electric Asset Holdings Inc., FPH's net income for the quarter would have been ₱1 billion, still higher than the net profit of ₱376 million in the same period last year.

The profit increase was due to the surge in earnings contribution from subsidiaries particularly power generation and trading firm First Gen Corp.

There was also some marking to market of FPH's remaining Meralco shares. With the remaining shares in Meralco of about 6.6 percent, FPH's investment will be booked as "available for sale" financial asset.

First Gen was the largest contributor to FPH's bottomline, reporting a net income of ₱6.1 billion for the quarter, up by 116 percent from a year ago.

In the meantime, Lopezes' share in the net earnings of associates surged to ₱926 million in the first quarter from ₱125 million a year ago following the sale of half of FPH's remaining stake in Meralco.

Lopezes' finance costs declined by 16 percent year-on-year to ₱268 million due to lower debt levels, following the buyback of its debt papers in the past 2009. — Doris C. Dumlao

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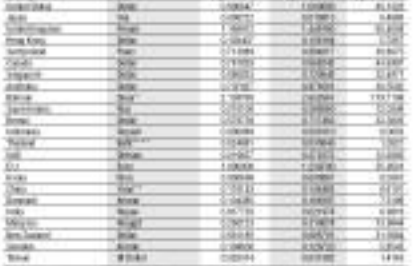

Roxaco invests P600M in Tagaytay

By Doris C. Dumlao

THE ROXAS GROUP IS INVESTing P600 million to an upscale resort community in Tagaytay City to take advantage of tourism opportunities in one of the country's most popular leisure spots.

Roxaco Land Corp. (Roxaco), the property unit of listed holding firm Roxas and Company Inc. (ROX), has tied up with FJ Properties Inc. (TOP) to develop Anya Resort and Residences, a six-hectare boutique development in Tagaytay.

Roxaco will invest in the development of the residential lots, resort facilities and spa and restaurants, the company said yesterday in a statement.

The resort community will offer amenities such as a destination pool, health gym, and spa facilities for both residents and guests.

The residential phase is expected to be launched later this year.

Inspired by Asian tropical design, Anya's blissfully offers "spacious and timeless landscape in a quiet and peaceful setting, which is perfect for de-

Anya Resort project features spa, restaurants, homes to lure tourists

stressing after a hectic workweek," the statement said.

"The calming ambience of tropical Asia coupled with Tagaytay's all-year cool and crisp weather make the perfect weekend home for families living a fast-paced city life," said Roxaco senior vice president Santiago Elizalde.

Roxaco and TOP will have 68 open lots available for sale, as an added feature, buyers can choose from three signature home designs that feature tropical Asian architecture.

The open lots have an average size of 450 square meters.

"Resorts normally only provide serviced accommodations to guests and not to residents, but we thought differently. By extending full serviced facilities to our residents, our truly live-in unit vision of redefining second home living through a luxurious, stress-free and hassle-free atmosphere," Elizalde said.

Established in 1988, Roxaco's development range from first-class residential resort communities to open-for-business and cyberzones mostly in western Batangas, either in partnership with other property developers and landowners or as sole developer.

Its projects include Peninsula De Punta Fuego, Terrazas De Punta Fuego and Club Punta Fuego, all in partnership with Land on Pacific Corp.

Asean trade pact comes into force

Agreement paves way for single Asean market

By Abigail L. Ho

THE ASEAN TRADE IN GOODS AGREEment (ATIGA), the successor of the Asean Free Trade Agreement Common Effective Preferential Tariff scheme, came into force Monday, following Thailand's ratification of the regional trade pact.

The Association of Southeast Asian Nations (Asean) said in a statement that the agreement would effectively bring down the cost of doing business within the Asean as tariff rates on key commodities will go down.

Asean secretary general Surin Pitsuwan said: This land finally submitted to his Jakarta office its instrument of ratification of the ATIGA.

With this submission, all Asean member states have now signed the trade pact, paving the way for its implementation.

Aside the submission of the others, Brunei Darussalam, Indonesia, Malaysia, the Philippines, Singapore and Thailand have 90 days to years from "legal requirements," while Cambodia, Lao PDR, Myanmar and Vietnam have 180 days to do so.

Following these, all Atiga tariff liberalization commitments would be implemented retroactively from Jan 1.

Surin said Asean member states should incorporate their Atiga commitments into local legislation to ensure the timely implementation of the agreed tariff reduction schedule.

"The Atiga is a major achievement toward the establishment of a single market and production base under the Asean Economic Community 2015," Surin said, adding that the effectivity of the Atiga would help facilitate trade within the region through simplified procedures and processes.

Elaborating issued Executive Order (EO) no. Dec. 21, 2009 for the country's implementation of its commitments under the Atiga, even before the schedule was enabled.

Thailand had stalled the ratification of the Atiga, saying it would not ratify unless it resolves its row issue with the Philippines.

The governments of Thailand and the Philippines finally resolved their row over with the signing of a memorandum of agreement on rice supply.

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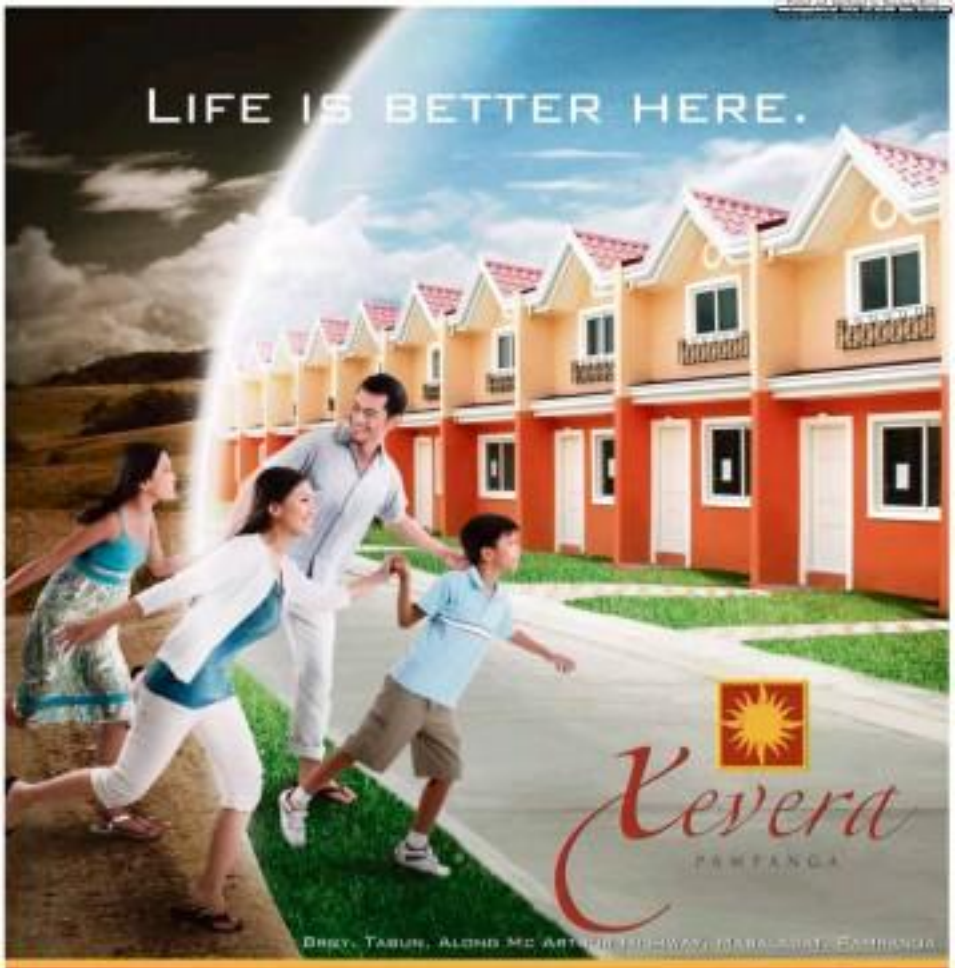

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MOTORING

Editor Joey N. Arcaro

Yeoh arriving

ON THE ROAD

Alda Serilla-Hewakor

Former Bond girl Michelle Yeoh brings FIA's road safety advocacy to Manila with a baggage full of crash helmets for kids

YEOH'S visit is expected to generate public awareness of the importance of safety measures to cut down on road accidents.

COMO, ITALY—OFTEN turning heads at the annual FIA Conference Week in this beautiful lakeside town one hour north of Milan is Michelle Yeoh, the glamorous star of "Crouching Tiger, Hidden Dragon."

Ms Yeoh, the Make Roads Safe Campaign Ambassador of the FIA Foundation, is the better half of Jean Todt, the former Ferrari racing director who now heads the Paris-based Federation Internationale de l'Automobile. The FIA not only governs all four-wheel motor sports worldwide (Formula One, World Rally Championship, GT2 World Championship, Paris-Dakar Rally, etc.) but also promotes road safety, energy conservation and environment-friendly mobility together with the majority of countries in the United Nations, the European Union and other international institutions.

Flying to Manila

After this conference which is being attended by officers of some of the 230 national motoring and sporting organizations of 122 countries affiliated with the FIA (including the Automobile Association Philippines (AAP), Ms Yeoh will fly to Manila to distribute 1,000 free crash helmets to public schoolchildren under the Global Helmet Shocks Initiative (GHSI) of the FIA Foundation's Make Roads Safe campaign. The beneficiaries will be young students who ride tandem on motorcycles with their parents or schoolmates.

AAP is organizing the May 20 GHSI event with the help of the Department of Education. The helmets, manufactured by Protec, bear the AAP logo. Before the distribution of helmets, Ms Yeoh will be the guest speaker at the Asian Development Bank, which is co-launching the GHSI in the Philippines together with AAP, the Asia Injury Prevention Foundation (AIP) and the FIA Foundation.

At the UN

Speaking before large and distinguished audiences is not new to Ms Yeoh, who has been traveling all over the world in her international road safety advocacy effort. Recently, she addressed the UN General Assembly which last March 12 declared 2011-2020 the Decade of Action for Road Safety. The UN Decade resolution sees coordinated and sustained road safety programs to be initiated by international donors working together with national agencies in the countries most affected by poor road safety.

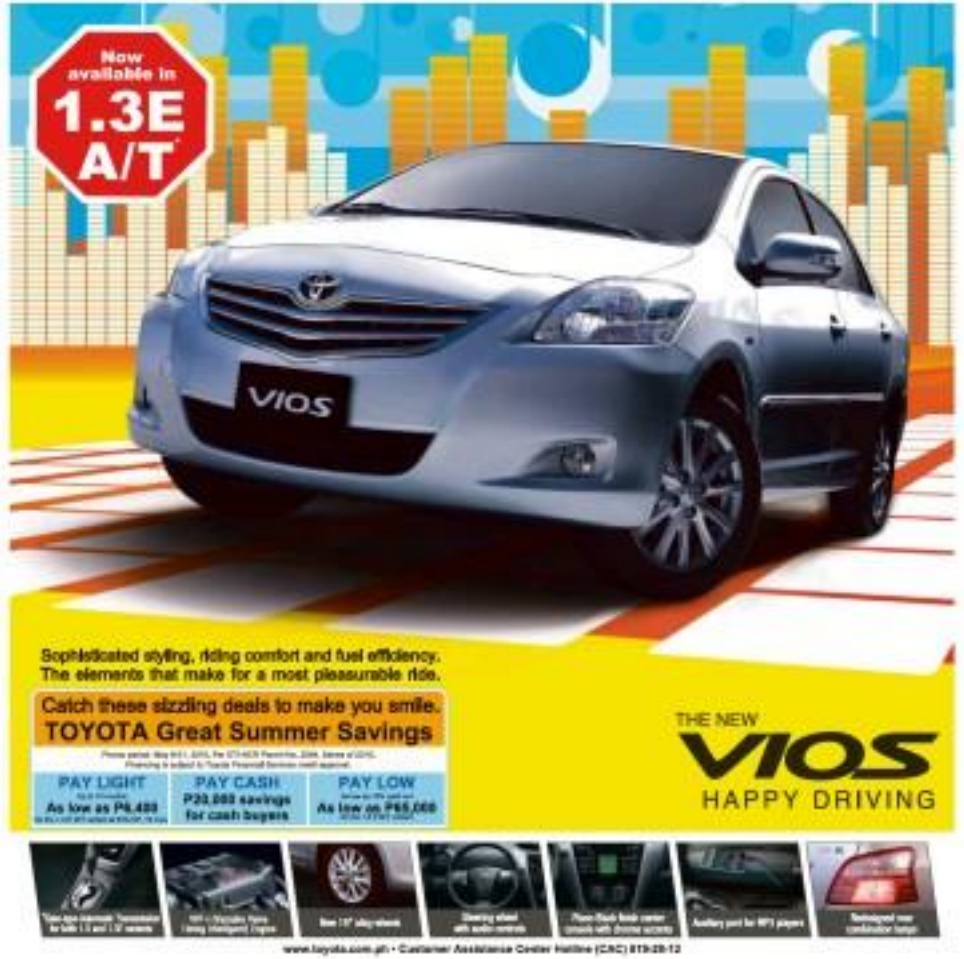
Michelle Yeoh starred in the 2009 "Turning Point" road safety documentary produced by the FIA Foundation, which spearheaded the Commission for Global Road Safety and the call for a Decade of Action aside from the Make Roads Safe campaign. After the GHSI distribution at the Inglesi compound, Ms Yeoh will head to the University of the Philippines Diliman campus for the symmetrical groundbreaking of the proposed Road Safety Park that will be developed by AAP and the UP in partnership with Filipinas Shell Petroleum Corporation.

Helmet campaign

Johnny Angeles, AAP vice president and road safety committee chairman, said that Michelle Yeoh was originally expected to arrive in Manila last March before the school year ended, but had to postpone her visit due to a conflict in schedule. The GHSI was launched in November 2009 by the AIP Foundation, FIA Foundation and World Bank Global Road Safety Facility with the aim of promoting and establishing standard helmet campaigns, combining advocacy for legislative change and political action with public awareness and distribution of helmets across the world.

Indeed, in developing countries like the Philippines the motorbike population has increased tremendously and in many cases, the motorcycle as resource has become a family transport. Children traveling with a parent in school by motorbike without a helmet is a common sight. Michelle Yeoh's steering wide in the distribution of free crash helmets, while AP safety experts explain the correct fitting and use procedures, will surely raise public awareness of the importance of safety measures to all road users. We all look forward to her arrival in Manila next week.

TODAY'S SUMMER STICKER: Be the kind of friend you'd want.



GPS tracking system boosts service and efficiency

By Cinderella L. Bulaon

WHEN PEOPLE ASK ABOUT BENETTON Cash Insurance, his adviser tells them, "my company offers Global Positioning System-based vehicle tracking systems."

"Their response would give me an idea whether they are an employer or a business owner. Because if that person is an employer, they would immediately be concerned that my business exceeds Big Brother," referring to the George Orwell book titled 1999, in which government knows everything about you and what you happened to say to. They get worried somewhat," said the president of Wallbusters Corp., which developed a technology that enables owners to know the whereabouts of their people, products or their vehicles as they travel anywhere in the Philippines.

While this technology is no longer new—a lot of similar line of business has flourished in the United States and Europe as well as in some parts of Asia, Eric said the technology that Wallbusters developed was created and perfected here and by a team of Filipino IT experts.

"The technology is proudly Philippine-made and so our clients are assured that ours was developed to suit the country's conditions. Moreover we do not even map-ping [of the Philippines] and we can provide whenever our clients require without as much difficulty," said Eric.

Nothing wrong

He added that there's nothing wrong with an owner or an organization monitoring their fleet of vehicles, or making sure their employees are doing what they're supposed to do.

"Now, don't get me wrong. Most owners are excited to learn that with the technology, they would now be able to check the safety and welfare of their employees as well as maximize the top condition of their vehicles. For example, the GPS-based vehicle tracking system that we developed can alert the owner or the officer in charge when the driver is already going over the pre-set speed limit. This not only saves the driver from accidents, but also from being apprehended," added Eric.

In another scenario, the GPS-based vehicle tracking system can actualize the activity of the vehicle after operating hours and on weekends.

Interested

"An owner would be interested to know if an employee is using the vehicle in moonlight or if that employee is using the company-supplied fuel for non-official purposes. During work hours that owner would like to know why the vehicle is parked for a long time on location when it should be hustling to its intended destination," he said.

With a GPS-based tracking system, the owner can cross-check a vehicle's location with the time of day it was there. In the end, there's no need for hand-written driver logs since there is now data from the tracking system.

And he found it of the GPS-based vehicle tracking system is that the owner or the officer-in-charge at the security of the driver and the vehicle.

THIS Peterbilt vehicle—one of Operation Private Jet the Save-a-dream runners—is equipped with Wallbusters' new-advanced GPS-based vehicle tracking system and could be monitored in real time as it travels anywhere in the Philippines.

"This system can alert the headquarters if the vehicle is already outside its area of operation or if it's already useless. In fact, our system has the ability to send a signal that will shut the vehicle's engine off or even lock all its doors. Again, this will depend on the requirements of the owner," he added.

So far, said the Wallbusters' technologies are now being utilized by Benetton Trucks and Equipment Corp., a company that collects boxes, all sorts of trailers as well as cargo and delivery trucks.

Compare and quantify

"With all our trucks equipped with Wallbusters' technologies, we are not only able to locate the whereabouts or activities of our trucks, we are also able to compare and quantify each of our truck's productivity as well as examine the state of each unit like if they are due for oil change, tire rotation or scheduled maintenance," explained Benedict Go, president of Western Trucks and Equipment Corp.

Benedict stressed that even those customers or their client's customers benefit from his brother's fleet's GPS-based vehicle tracking system as they can now estimate the arrival or delivery of their goods.

"Investing in GPS tracking also saves money, increases productivity [of vehicles and people] and helps the environment by reducing fuel use and carbon emissions. Indeed, Wallbusters's GPS-based vehicle tracking system allows owners to sit in their desktop and look at a map that shows them the precise locations of every truck with updates every second. They can display various kinds of modes around the area and send text-based vehicle-to-driver messages, all over the internet. What could be better?" said Benedict.

His brother agreed. "Ever since the first GPS technology became available to the public, we saw its potential not only for travelers and adventure-seekers. While it also has been used in conventional ways up to its Philippine setting, the end product we're presenting that we could now offer this technology to transport groups (motorcycles, cars), Asian utility vehicles and vans), restaurants with delivery vehicles, and companies that maintain a fleet of vehicles," Benedict said.

GPS refers to the constellation of 24 Earth-orbiting satellites. They work with GPS receivers or hand-held devices that locate four or more of these satellites in order to plot the exact location on any given time.

Suzuki Honors its Top Dealers of the Year

The country's only integrated automotive company, Suzuki Philippines Inc. (SPI), honored its top dealers in ceremonies held last April 28, 2010, at La Pradera, Pasay City.

Suzuki Auto Cebu, 2009 Top Dealer of the year.

for having achieved the highest points in Suzuki's Balanced Score Card (BSC) in 2009. Suzuki Auto Cebu made the distinction of the year among Suzuki's 76 automotive dealers nationwide. In 2008, Suzuki Auto Cebu was the top dealer in the provincial category.

Asked about the secret to their success, Suzuki Auto Cebu General Manager Debbie Chua, before receiving the Dealer of the Year award in a ceremonies in the host town of our people. We will be trying very hard to maintain our position. Our sales consultants and all the sales force know about our customer service so that we can continue to be the top Suzuki dealer." Suzuki Auto Cebu is owned by Cebu Motorcentrale Corporation, headed by its president Rudyard and wife Helen of Brian and Debbie Chua.

A consistent high performer for the past two years, Suzuki Auto Laguna earned the 2nd Top Dealer of the Year Award. They attribute their success to members of their working, thus ensuring strong patronage from their customers base.

Third place in the Dealer of the Year standings went to Suzuki Auto Kalookan, which also garnered the no. 1 spot as Suzuki's top Metro Manila dealer in retail sales.

Suzuki employs a Balanced Score Card (BSC) system for evaluating and rewarding its dealers in terms of marketing strategy implementation. The comprehensive rating system evaluates retail sales performance and spare parts sales, as well as service and showroom competence. The system also ensures that Suzuki dealers maintain the company's global standards to ensure a high level of customer satisfaction.

Suzuki Automotive Philippines Family Picture

Platinum award for Kia Pasig

KIA PASIG (AUTOCIRCLE, INC.) RECEIVED the coveted Platinum Dealer Certification, a recognition only bestowed to those accredited Kia's Global Dealer Standards, to lead the Philippine members during a Dealer Awards Night held at The Shore penthouse recently.

Kia Dasmariñas, meanwhile, merged away with the Gold award for their achievement in Kia's Art Smart Campaign. The Silver award was won by Kia Cauayan second while Kia Marikina got the Bronze award.

Kia recognized and honored four of its authorized dealers in the Philippines as part of its Kia Dealer Excellence Programme (KDE) which is the Korean car company's unique dealer achievement program through Columbian Autocar Corporation (CAC), Kia's authorized local distributor.

The KDEP is a series of Kia dealership-based activities similar in concept to Ford's Blue Oval or Chrysler's Five Star awards, which recognizes dealer achievement and satisfaction in terms of management, performance and customer satisfaction.

In 2009, Autocircle Inc. (Hero known as Pasig, Inc.) was the recipient of the Gold award of Kia's Art Smart Campaign while Kia Pasig won the same award in 2008.

The program was not implemented and subjected to review in 2007 and incorporated as part of the overall Kia Dealer Excellence Program.

A total of six local dealers were recognized for their outstanding Sales and Service Achievement. The Outstanding Sales Award is based on the total sales volume achieved by the dealership in 2009. The Outstanding After-Sales Award on the other hand is based on a set of criteria that includes facilities and operations evaluation; target achievement in the areas of workshop and parts sales; and overall support for CAC-initiated programs and policies.

This year's overall winner for sales is Kia Cebu which also received recognition for topping the sales in the Visayas region. Other dealers who were cited for their outstanding sales achievement in 2009 include Kia Sta. Rosa for Metro Manila, Kia Pasig for Luzon and Kia Cagayan de Oro for Mindanao.

After-Sales Awards were conferred on Kia Pasig for Metro Manila, Kia Batangas for Luzon, Kia Cebu for Visayas and Kia Cagayan de Oro for Mindanao.

K.S. Lee (third from left), regional service manager of Kia Motors Corporation, and Felix Mulding, Jr. (third from right), president and COO of Columbian Autocar Corp. with, from left, Dino Cancuello of Kia Marilao, Michael Maisog of Kia Pasig, Alex Reinoso of Kia Dumaguete and Alfredo Sabanpan of Kia Cauayan-Isabela.

Get on the road with Nissan X-Trail and Grand Livina Road Master edition

Have you ever been excited about driving when there's a certain kind of joy that goes with it? Well, there even a time when you feel the need to pour heavier and the your vehicle is your shelter from the world's worst problems? Well, we understands how driving and your vehicle can give you that. And it is telling you enjoy it more with the introduction of the Nissan Grand Livina and X-Trail Road Master edition.

This summer, hit the road with your family riding the Nissan Grand Livina Road Master edition. A trip down south to a good idea, and you have the driver that will simplify the whole family's excitement. Why not about the device or the drive, this new edition is set to let you enjoy the ride with every bounce with all its new-inspired and audio system. Whether you go south or north for your family adventure, you're sure to find your location in this navigation system loaded up with the Philippine map!

Its audio system is equipped with DVD with MP4 player, MP3 player, iPod with aux adapter, and Bluetooth mobile connectivity, you especially your kids, will be entertained along the way.

Its Bluetooth connectivity with the Road Master edition of Grand Livina will let you focus on the road as complete information - speed indicator, battery voltage, and RPM - can now be seen on the 4½ digit multi-information display.

Making it more exciting is the Road Master edition gaming screen as well. Not only will give you driving performance like a sedan that comes with seamless cruise, this new Nissan Grand Livina is also packed with a quick body kit for additional aerodynamics and superb styling. With its 2.0 L DOHC cvtronic rear spoiler, and wing around each, starts what you call driving in style!

If you're the type who favors SUV, check out the Nissan X-Trail Road Master edition. Feel the road and have fun more. Enjoy every mile driving with the built-in audio navigation system while listening to a great sounding music. You may also transform to DVD for movies during to entertain you with your favorite movies or music during long driving.

The Nissan X-Trail Road Master edition will let you navigate the road safely. Stare every inch of your trail with the built-in Rear Monitor. Nissan Grand Livina provides information from speed, battery voltage, and RPM without taking your eyes off the road.

With all these bells of the art technology, feature loaded in the Nissan X-Trail Road Master edition, Nissan Grand Philippines Inc. definitely sets the trend in the industry. The time has arrived to switch and perform your all dated car into one with the new Nissan Road Master edition. Letting you feel the difference! The Road Master edition of Grand Livina and X-Trail comes in gold and silver colors. Light Blue and Black.

Looking back

Why RP street life is (still) filled with Adventures

By Tessa R. Salazar

THE ADVENTURE'S main selling proposition is its reliability and ease of maintenance.

BECAUSE PINOY DRIVER (PRED) STILL HAS a sound mind) what driving on Philippine streets is like (particularly on EDSA), and the common mood would most likely be "adventure."

Adventure, this time with a capital "A," would be considered another common explaining on our streets. For 12 years, Mitsubishi Motors' iconic version of the Asian utility vehicle (AUV) has been shuttling people from all walks of life. Originally thrown into the burgeoning AUV segment to compete directly with the likes of Toyota's FX (and later on the Revo) and Isuzu's Hilander and Crosswind, the Adventure's basic body configuration remains, with just a few modifications through the years. The latest version of the Super Sport, GLS Sport and GLS navigator, for example, now sport a new radiator/front grille design reminiscent of that of the Pajero, to name a few.

Also in recent years, Toyota has moved on and phased out the Revos and FXs and replaced them with the IMV vehicles Innova and Avanza; the Adventure remains and still manages a sales average of 300 units a month.

What's keeping this Adventure alive?

Mitsubishi Motors Philippines Corp., prodded with this question, offers an answer that seems to explain everything: A different customer profile that includes deep-pocketed, brand-loyal OFWs; small and medium enterprises; and entire up families to the 8 and UP segments. MMPC has made sure that these customers get exactly what they want: A workhorse of an AUV designed for a variety of purposes, be it personal or for business. The move has been spot on. In October 2009, during the relaunch of MMPC's Manila Auto Show/Program, roughly half of the hundreds of applicants specified an Adventure.

MMPC further explains that as long as there is a demand for a basic vehicle (flexible enough to be used for private and business purposes and requires relatively low investments for maintenance), the Adventure will always be on the scene. And with the various upgrades Mitsubishi has done to the Adventure through the years, a strong value-for-money proposition has also been established.

Last year, MMPC was able to secure 28.4 percent of the AUV market share, good enough for 2nd place. (Toyota retained the first place with the Innova).

The latest version of the Adventure (for the Super Sport, GLS Sport, GLS) offers enhancements in its in-car entertainment and display features, such as: 2-DIN CD/MP3/Tuner/USB port. Illuminated amplifier on the phone, and new instrument cluster display design. The steering wheel has also been redesigned (for the GLS Sport and GLS), while the Super Sport spare tire cover has likewise been retouched.

The Adventure's diesel engine, however, has basically stayed the same throughout the years. With the growing popularity of the common rail direct injection (CRDI) technology, will Mitsubishi replace the Adventure's diesel engine with something similar?

MMPC replies that if the proposed upgrading of Philippine emission regulations to Euro 4 is given the go signals in 2014, MMPC would then have to upgrade the Adventure diesel engine either with Direct Injection or Direct Injection with common rail.

But why not replace it now, with the demand for CRDI pending? MMPC further explains that upgrading the engine would definitely increase the cost of production, since it would involve not only the cost of the CRDI engine assembly, but also R&D costs. Add to that would be the increased cost of maintaining the Euro4-level engine in a Kamal fuel environment. So why bother changing that isn't broke (or belching smoke)?

Then, the Adventure's retail prices remain right smack within the budgets of its (mostly) markets. As of April, the Adventure GLS (M/T) carries a price tag of ₱758,000; the Adventure GLS (M/T) ₱745,000; the Adventure GLS Sport ₱815,000; and the Adventure Super Sport ₱914,000.

13 years, over 72,000 Adventures

Since its introduction in 1998, 72,555 Adventures have already been sold. Incorporation, the Nueva Ecija assembled 1,000 had 69,969 units sold (see graphic) (photo) by the Innova. The Isuzu Crosswind, introduced in 2001, had 10,711 units sold as of March 2010. The Adventure played a key role in capturing the number one spot for MMPC in 1998.

In March 2006, MMPC commemorated the 50,000th unit production milestone for Adventure.

The Adventure was jointly developed by Mitsubishi Motors Corp (MMC), Mitsubishi Motors Taiwan (China Motor Corp) and its domestic (PT. Krama Yudha Tiga Berlian Motors). The development and design needs for the vehicle started in 2005. In Taiwan, the Adventure is called The Fronca, while in Indonesia it is branded as the Strada.

In the Philippines, the Adventure has been popular enough for a fan club to be created around it. The Mitsubishi Adventure Club gathers regularly to share knowledge on maintenance, aesthetic modifications, and troubleshooting tips. It's enough proof that the resilient Pinoy can't do without an Adventure or two in or her life.

The iconic Mitsubishi AUV still enjoys 500-units-a-month sales, proof that we're not yet ready to end this 12-year-old relationship

New auto mag makes glossy debut

AQ MAGAZINE, AUTOMOBILE ASSOCIATION Philippines' quarterly glossy magazine, made its debut last month. Printed online in short and insecure enhancement Asha Sevilla Mendoza showed off its pilot issue (limited "four ways") at the Isuzu Diesel Mansion launch May 11. The look and layout of the magazine, at first glance, looked familiar. A quick glance at the staff box reveals that some of the artists and writers were "exes," or had worked for other motoring publications in the past. Its executive editor is Jessy Quiapos, and some of the columnists are Tito Herrmann, Ginjo Rivera. Its managing editor is Vince Perocho and design director is Mark Vergara.

The question is, will this magazine, good only as it is, pass a high-bronic challenge to C5 and "big-brand" Let's turn the page and find out. Tessa R. Salazar

Longtime writer gets axed!

From the "ex," let's go to the "axe." This longtime writer, part of the so-called "dream team" of a leading nationally circulated broadsheet, has reportedly been unceremoniously axed from the publication (reportedly because of his unwillingness to the company policy) has also been under new leadership), didn't know what to say in the first place when he received the news. Reportedly, he was told by his superiors that he was not in the "dream team" members has approached him and given him the heads-up. What he knows, he says, is that he is the one who is the only one missing in that paper's lineup of writers and columnists.

Our advice to longtime writer: Keep your helmet on, dude. You never know when or where the axe will fall. Dhakstar

Just like the elections!

Car show competitions just may be like our national elections. There are the winners and the elected.

Just take the most recent show as an example. A friend subjected to Autoshow of an exhibitor with an excellent track record of winning in car shows. This time, however, he didn't win anything.

The disgruntled exhibitor invested millions of pesos putting up this show car, which was ostensibly a crowd favorite. His debut surprised everyone and most tongues wagging. Never before has this person been shut out.

Or no small politics here? The award-winning enthusiast also joined a rival group, and could have been "persuaded" here's.

Tessa R. Salazar

Flying Finn returns

Rauno "The Rally Professor" Aaltonen graces launch of MINI Cooper JCW model

By Alvin Uy

MINI Dalisai Car welcomes the very spirit of sport with this restoration of his winning rally car in the 1960s

NAUNO Aaltonen (left) receives a mini replica of the Philippine property from MINI Dalisai City president Willy Tee Tee

AFTER OVER 40 years, 1967 Monte Carlo Rally champion Rauno Aaltonen returned Manila en route to grace the launch of the MINI Cooper John Cooper Works (JCW) model at RF for a first trip here ever on a stopover visit some four decades had meeting with a group of MINI enthusiasts in Manila. Aaltonen is the official MINI Ambassador and Traffic Safety Expert for the BMW Group. He has been involved with BMW since 1976, where he was founder and chief instructor for the BMW Driver Training Program, which was considered one of the biggest in its time in the world of motor sports; he is known affectionately as the "Original Flying Finn" and was considered one of the most successful European rally drivers in the 1960s. Of his numerous victories, his most memorable win was the 1967 Monte Carlo Rally in a Mini Cooper S, along with his partner, Henry Liddon.

Left-foot brake technique

He was also known as "The Rally Professor" and was one of the first Finnish professional rally drivers who competed in the World Rally Championship from the 1960s throughout the 1970s. He actually started his career on speedboats and later moved on to competitive motorcycling before he became the first Finnish European Rally Champion. Early in his racing career, he already had an affinity with the Mini and BMW, having scored in the 1964 Spa 24-hour race on a BMW 1800 TI/SA and competing in a Mini Cooper S in the mid-60s.

When asked why he is often called the "Rally Professor," Aaltonen explains: "It is because of my attitude to the sport—preparing yourself and the car to perfection." He methodically approaches the high stakes, high-risk sport of motor racing but likes to insert the "left-foot brake" technique, something that rally drivers use up until today. "Unless you have many years like Buddha, just for shifting, two in the morning and one for the handbrake, mastering the left-foot braking technique allowed me to save time and focus my hands on steering. However, this is not meant for amateur drivers, it takes a long time to master but once perfected, it allows faster times especially in hairpin curves and bends," said Aaltonen, who was excitedly retrieving to the Indian god "Vishnu" instead of Buddha.

Still a "Flying Finn"

Lucky MINI owners and enthusiasts are as well as members of the media were treated to a performance on a specially prepared enclosed road area beside the SM! four where guests were even invited to ride with the gritty owners-collecting race car rally icon. Using a brand new MINI Cabriolet Cooper S, Aaltonen showed the crowd that he still has it as he did several 180-degree corners spins with precision and grace.

When asked about the major differences between today's MINI and the sport of rallying, he said "The new MINI is bigger in size but has the same characteristics as the old one. The wheel still has a short overhangs that give a go-kart feel and agility. But the longer wheelbase of today's cars has less agility because of polar inertia. The longer wheelbase needs more energy to move sideways. The Mini does not have that problem due to its size, even with the modern times." He demonstrated this by using a long floor map, which he made the rookies try to swing their asses sideways. The longer the length of the map, the more energy was needed. He also commented "The speed of rallying has changed. Before it was possible to do it in public roads. That was as long as five days per race. Now, due to increase in cost, the races are shorter and physically less demanding. The sport of rallying is an adrenaline race with so many unknowns requiring quick decisions. I am a man who likes challenges."

THE FLYING Finn takes the wheel of a MINI Cabriolet Cooper S for some 180-degree reverse spins with Tee Tee on board.

JCW Limited Edition

Fifty years ago, sports car constructor John Cooper won his first Formula One World Championship title with Jack Brabham at the wheel. After five decades, his son Mike Cooper collaborated with BMW to do a special edition JCW model commemorating the victory with a limited production run of 500 units and that was first unveiled to the public at the 2009 MINI United Festival in Silverstone.

Only four units of this special edition, with limited edition numbers 018, 278, 288 and 388, made it to RP under the MINI dealership. "The other examples were not so fortunate to get this much attention as we did," said Mike Cue, Vice President of MINI Global Cue. (We) asked how the MINI is doing in RP. "Of the boxes hands of 47 units (of various models), we only have five units left unsold," said Cue. This figure would include the four JCW units, which was probably sold even before it was delivered.

Each JCW limited edition unit will come with a framed certificate of authenticity signed by John Michael "Mike" Cooper. The car is based on the MINI John Cooper Works model and with a 211 hp 4-cylinder engine with a twin-scroll turbo. The bodywork of these limited edition models are accentuated with the racing colors of British race car in the 1950s and 60s. Mike Cooper's signature is on each of these limited edition cars, who was involved in various details of this project's development from the beginning.

MINI Cue presents one of only four MINI JCW units to be sold here.

Editor Thelma Sioson San Juan Contributing Editor Liz S. Bernardo

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An explosion of design at Salon de Mobile 2010

Bursting with bright design talent, it proves there's now thin line between fashion and furniture design

STORY CONTINUED [illegible]

School + Kumon = Success

You read it right! School + Kumon = Success.

Designed to be an after-school supplementary learning program, Kumon's aim is to allow children to study high school and college level materials with ease. Through daily Kumon study, students are equipped with strong academic skills and are thus capable of studying advanced materials that are two, three or even four years above their school grade level.

Imagine a Grade 1 student inside his Kumon center answering problems such as 1+8=□, 2+3=□, 5+□=7 or analyzing a topic meant for high school students. Now imagine the same Grade 1 student inside his classroom, learning materials that are just meant for Grade 1 students such as addition and subtraction.

Not only will school work become easier for the child, but he will actually enjoy learning since he will no longer find school burdensome! He will not be pressured to catch up with his schoolmates because Kumon enables him to study advanced materials. Moreover, he will have the time to explore and develop his skills in other fields of interest. Through Kumon, students become more confident about themselves and the skills they possess, enabling them to face challenges proactively and enthusiastically. They gain the desire to learn more, do more and achieve more.

For further details about this unique, individualized learning method for math and reading that has been developing confidence, a sense of achievement, and a solid foundation for a successful life in children, call 893-6226, or visit http://phkumonglobal.com.

Multi-tasking master: NOKIA N900

Nokia likes to call its N-series handsets "multimedia computers." Well, that term has just been raised to a new level—thanks to the brand spanking new N900.

The N900 is the first Nokia device that runs the open-source Linux-based Maemo 5 platform. Sporting a huge, bright and very responsive resistive touch-screen display and slide-out QWERTY keyboard, the phone also packs serious specs: a fast 600 MHz ARM Cortex A8 processor, an even faster 1GB of RAM, a whopping 32GB of internal memory, and 3D graphics acceleration with OpenGL ES 2.0 support.

The front of the phone is all 3.5 inches of touch-screen beauty. The only buttons are on the sides: lock switch, power button, camera shutter key, and up/down volume key. This "multimedia computer" has four fully customizable home-screen panels. You can place widgets for applications, RSS feeds, contacts, and other shortcuts you can think of. Switching from one page to another is done by swiping the screen with your finger.

The user interface is very touch-friendly, even if intuitiveness seems to be the N900's biggest weakness. Scrolling back and forth between menus isn't always clear; sometimes you're required to press a back button onscreen, and sometimes you simply need to tap outside the window. Figuring out how all the menus work and what each icon stands for takes time.

Web browsing via N900 is a big plus, though. The Mozilla-powered Maemo browser is HTML-capable and supports Flash and AJAX. It renders perfect versions of web pages with all the fancy elements inlaid. You can even switch between apps and websites without missing a beat. The N900 is one speedy multitasking smartphone.

And it's a multimedia device of the highest order. It has a robust media player with support for most audio and video formats as well as Internet radio and an FM tuner. Its huge 32GB of onboard memory can even be expanded via microSD card.

The 5-MP autofocus camera features Carl Zeiss optics and dual-LED flash as well as several standard camera options including ISO sensitivity, white balance adjustment, and exposure settings. Picture quality is impressive, with lots of fine details and very good color accuracy. Videos are taken at up to 800 x 480 pixels.

The N900's call quality is good and reception is clear. IM and SMS messages are grouped in a single thread aptly called "Conversations." The battery yielded one and a half days of juice with moderate data, multimedia, and voice use.

The N900 comes with Bluetooth 2.1, WLAN 802.11b/g, 3G HSPA, and integrated GPS with A-GPS, as well as a 3.5mm headphone jack and microUSB port.

All things considered, the N900 is one powerful mobile device with a promising and capable new platform, superb browsing capabilities, and awesome multitasking power.

HANNA Mabuza

CELINE Lopez

QUAD and Reign de la Paz

SAMANTHA Lopez, Alexandra Gutierrez and Paris Amigo

MERCED Rodriguez with his ladylove, designer Rosanna Ocampo and his aunt Reg Morales

AZURI royalty Jiggie Antonio and gorgeous wife May Watusi Marie A. and wife, via time in New York gal Jackie Cohen; Avni Jose Antonio and wife Hilda Reyes; and Bobbie Antonio

WENDY Payot

CENTURY Properties global ambassador Bella Gutierrez

DESIGNERS Hardy Weber Tantoco and Charisse Sarao

Fashion show marks launch of real estate developer's new project

IT CERTAINLY WAS THE GRANDEST happening of the week, Baldinger, when the country's first residential resort community by that dynamic real estate firm Century Properties opened its spectacular showroom at The Pacific West Building in Makati. It was a fantastic launch showcasing the fashion creations by superb talented designers Rosanna Ocampo, Cherlon Sarao and Hardy Weber-Tantoco.

The event was superbly hosted by Joey Mead and directed by Bobbie Contreras. The lure of our tropical surroundings was amazed by Ayala development's resort-style living and soon-to-arrive townsmile beach, Seside the Ayala showroom, models breezed down the catwalk, salongsay Rosanna paid homage to the residential enclave Antonio Knoll and her favorite city, Barcelona. Cherlon showed an extensive and beachwear ensembles, with spectacular animal prints. And Hardy's was the perfect match to Ayala's modern yet graceful architecture.

Century's global ambassador, statuesque beauty Bella Gutierrez, excited guests "to start looking at investment opportunities in a relaxing family-oriented resort lifestyle in the future."

All the endless summer of cocktails, courtesy of Brandy Brandee Bagsikar and Grey Goose plus great music from DJ Shamcler Evans kept us partying all night. Others stayed signing for a piece of Ayala Urban Resort Inc., project which is Century Properties' latest development under Century Meridian Corporation, its joint partnership with Columbia Motor Group of Companies, a nine-building, six-hectare property located beside Old Bicutan in SLEX West Service Road, Barangay Dela Paz. It can be reached at 840-8888 or www.century.properties.com and be among the first to be with the smart crowd, palangpo.

Laser lights in Boracay

The beach was fully lighted, the crowd more like a massive and the happening has all the it was down, palangpo.

The famous Laser Light Party rocked Boracay with gorgeous gun bodies of the men and women at the beachfront of the countries' finest of the Pacific. It attracted true and tons of partygoers. The bonus, courtesy of The Bar, is the biggest flavored vodka that requires no mixers, just ice. On the other hand, Super Fresh is an imported Portuguese beer that takes pride "in being healthy and environmentally friendly."

ANDREW Escobar, eye-catching their Guevara, BACPAN Events GM Pete Manansala, connection lawyer Bonnevie Balasano, Raymond Agustin and Marielle Ocampo

RYAN Roberts, Andrew Escobar, Cara Dalupingstad, Rachel Lobangco and Hector Cunio

WITHOUT BATTING AN EYELASH

Maurice Arcache

Photos by Alex Vinz Hagero using YBL Photo Editorial

Levi's determined their new feature. Go jeans while models danced on the runway, evoking a carefree attitude with some cross stripping down to almost their bare essentials, reinforcing the casual and sexy mood of the look, dahlings.

This was cued by DJ Alex Idong, who took on the fourth fort, followed by Miss Michelle and Petra Calip, also B. Cal, who were in mind of the invisible. The crowd-to-stage dance then hips like there's no tomorrow, plus MC Gold-en Boy added to the atmosphere's hot energy and adrenaline shooting up. Thank God we could cool off by just jumping into the waters of Boni's famous beach.

The Hottest Laser Light Party on the island lived up to its name to the fullest and arguably the coolest event, dahlings.

Produced by SuChin Events, it was presented by Levi's, co-presented by The Bull, Head of the Pacific Resort & Spa and Beach, with major sponsors Schick, Banana Boat and The Manila Times.

(FAR LEFT) J Int. Djo Mars Manalo, B. Cal and Rita Wong; Tibor GM Paresh Tanwani and Levi's boardrunner Joe Barnes

REV. FR. JEY Lim and Msgr. Nestor Cortes

GLAMOROUS philanthropist Hobby Capangpo

GE hosts 6th Invitational Golf Tournament

World renowned General Electric hosted the fourth exciting GE Invitational Challenge 2010, when the company marked its awesome 70th year as a corporation in the Philippines, dahlings. The event was held at the high-end Sta. Elena Golf Club. Colin Low, GE president for the Philippines, and Singapore and Cambodia organized and executed the General's Initiatives, Affairs, led the guests who are mostly non-dropouts men of power whose investments are golf clubs, dahlings.

Low said, "This is our activity to show our appreciation to everyone who continues to support and have faith in through the years. We are extremely pleased with the overall success of this year's tournament."

The golfing prizes were treated to raffle prizes like two business class round-trip international tickets courtesy of Philippine Airlines, two round-trip international tickets courtesy of Cebu Pacific, a complete golfer's souvenir kit consisting of Nike dry-fit GE golf shirts and cubes GE goodies. Proceeds from the Malhiyan, salongsay, were turned over to GE Volunteers to help fund GE's (GE) activities.

COLIN Low (far right) and GE president for the Philippines, Cambodia and Singapore Jeffrey Immelt (second from right) with golfers during the GE Invitational Challenge 2010

JULIO Macabe of Cebu Pacific Air and GE's Colin Low

DANNY Dolor, Martin Teopaz and Ade Escalona (center) Gile Parra, Zita Feliciano and Nene Lozano

Cofradia de la Inmaculada Concepcion 150th year

The Cofradia de la Inmaculada Concepcion celebrated its 150th year anniversary in recognition of its being a "key organization in the Archdiocese of Manila." Held at Makati d Pearl Hotel, venue of Msgr. Hyacinth Strand, the event was attended by glamorous philanthropist Hobby Capangpo (in kneeling, chairman) and the year's honorees Marlene Hemdana Pineda, Thelma Cano and Nelly Bengson, palangpo. It started with a Mass by Rev Fr. Joe Sosa and Msgr. Nestor Cortes.

RENE Arteaga of Energy Development Corp., Bobbi Lalo of Petron Corp., Willie Elumba for Granville & Waters, and Jimmy Pecson of Petron Corp.

NESTOR Macaranong and Bonifacio Sison of PAL, Brian Zaharia of OB Aviation

NELLY Bengson, Cora Dalupin, Marlene Mendoza Pineda, Cristella Lontok and Thelma Cano

Sofa units by Antonio Citterio from Viteo

An explosion of design at Salon de Mobile 2010

BASIC? A right: Milanoli's furniture collection features colors that pop.

KITCHEN couture — a collaboration between Armani Casa and Dada

By Ferdinand Dag
Contributor

RHO, MILAN—THE START of Salone del Mobile, the biggest annual furniture fair in the world, was overshadowed by the eruption of the Icelandic volcano Eyjafjallajökull, which sprewed ash over the atmosphere and forced the cancellation of flights all over Europe.

But still some 300,000 visitors flocked to the fair, to seek contrast to the ashen atmosphere, a burst of bright creative ingenuity was displayed in the 24 halls of the Fiera Milano Complex, venue of the fair.

The booth that stood out was that of Minotti, which gave one the feel of being in a very posh Scandinavian hotel. Its main accent piece was a sleek table to which sat a Chanel-inspired amethyst to mood. Helming the little design space was Roberto Minotti, owner of the 40-year-old luxury furniture company.

Stranded by Alberto Minotti, Bernard's father, after Nicola Vitta 11, Minotti has grown into an international brand. In a world where sun flames are the primary consideration in manufacturing furniture, Minotti stands by its heritage of luxury, quality and appeal.

"The 2010 collection is welcoming, vintage and everyday," said Rossato. "Welcoming because when you see the sofa, it looks more comfortable and inviting to sit on; vintage due to the lines that go back to the foundations of design and contemporary shapes; and everyday, as portrayed by the fabrics that are similar to mood used by fashion houses like Chanel."

"What it comes to color though," he added, "we stuck to the classic shades of copper and pewter to create the timeless yet masculine feel for the furniture and ambience."

The commissioning of a designer such as Rodolfo Dordoni has led to seamless collections through the years. A sofa is not just a sofa but a product that provides a feel of luxury.

Culinary systems

With kitchens becoming the central area of the home, manufacturers have zeroed up culinary systems. A good example is the latest created by B&B for Bulthaup. It pulled away from the conventional kitchen design and worked completely from scratch.

The design was born when the B/S group looked at the history of the kitchen and came across the simple 17th-century design of the Dupré's ordinary enclave.

Searching for the ideal source of worktbench light, Bulthaup came up with the idea of a hollowed, flowing line of light. By combining it with a free-class recirculation system, the line with light becomes a kitchen tool in its own right, it turns the backbone of a new category of products.

When the air recirculation function is switched on, the two rises that run along the bar of light open to the side and expose the entire intake surface. The aerodynamic side view gives the impression of the movement and compaction of living air.

Since mobility is at the forefront of the flexible elements in the Bulthaup b2 kitchen, the versatility of the fan with light is also important. If the position or configuration of the worktbench is changed, the position of the fan with light, hanging from two steel cables, can be adapted with very little effort. The fan with light unit (the be suspended) over the dining table, responding to the individual needs of its user.

Bringing the outdoors in

Outdoor living has become a popular field for furniture manufacturers in the last several years. More people are using weatherproof fabric and aluminum so that furniture can withstand the elements. The latest trend to redress outdoor pieces that look good enough to be used indoors.

German manufacturer Dedon created a fascinating area in the furnace. For its Basic collection with renowned designer Philippe Starck, it produced a new postural chair called "Play" which allows one to build his or her own chair by combining materials such as Dedon fiber, laminate, steel and plastic. One can easily change the armrest or the seater of the fiber—the possibilities are endless.

Its current campaign is with renowned photographer Bruce Weber. The tables have turned... furniture now stars in creative fashion.

Vintage-rock look

Most of the new furniture manufacturers get their inspiration from the world's top fashion houses. A few examples would be Diesel and Missoni, which did several home pieces ranging from dinnerware to furniture.

An explosion of design . . .

From page G1

Orsini's new collection, called Successful Living, is collaboration with three namesakes: Fontanini Ogliastro, Morosa (furniture) and Tiscornia (fabrics).

The fabrics used on the upholstered luxuries created a very signature Orsini look. The collection, limited to denim blue with a hint of vintage red, was described as "something for the person who lives the literal lifestyle."

Not to be left out, Rivoli also showcased sofas and chairs embroidered with Swarovski crystals and fine crocodile leather. Versace Casa remembered its collection to something more colorful and reminiscent of the Versace clothes one can find on the runway. And Armani Casa collaborated with IMAN in creating a very distinct kitchen that melded Asian and Italian influences.

The dynast brothers had massive doors made of Brazilian hardwood, combined with stainless steel. It also used a new copper-colored high-tech fabric that imparted a shiny finish to the cabinets.

Ecologically sound

Global warming is a very big concern, with manufacturers creating furniture that showed they also cared about the environment.

Examples would be Ernst's 111 chair, composed of 111 recycled Coca-Cola bottles. The new shade of red used in the soda bottles made the new aluminum chair a dashing accent piece to put in one's dining room.

Moroso came up with a 100-percent recycled chair using environmentally friendly materials. The covering is made of used tires, while the inventors use rounds of polyester flask from recycled PET bottles.

A chair worth mentioning would be the one from Myra. Created by Alejandro Aravena, Chaidron is a revolutionary seating device for the modern contend. The wire-sans developed by studying the volume of spaces in chairs of Gaur Chaco, Paraguay. The Indians used a easy way to ease the pressure on the legs and enable them to rest without the need to use their arms to hold them in position.

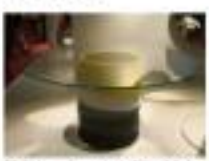
This sturdy strap of fabric allows to rest to sit down in a relaxed manner. Cumbria is so light and compact that you can carry it with you wherever you go. It relieves the pressure on the spine and legs, so that hugging your knees or using a support is no longer necessary.

Salone do Mobile 2010 demonstrated that there is now a thin line between fashion and furniture design. The crossover is unavoidable, with both furniture and fashion designers wanting to evoke lifestyle experiences with their own brands.

FIREWOOD not needed. Ecosmart fireplace

MISSONI'S playful use of prints is seen in this sofa (above). Missoni's Capri armchair (right) makes you want to curl up and read a book.

AQUA Chaise-ottoman by Patricia Fox



ETNICA Set-up of Layer table by Gubbini & Radice

RICOS-COLORED glass pieces by Johannes Grauerholz from Glas Italia

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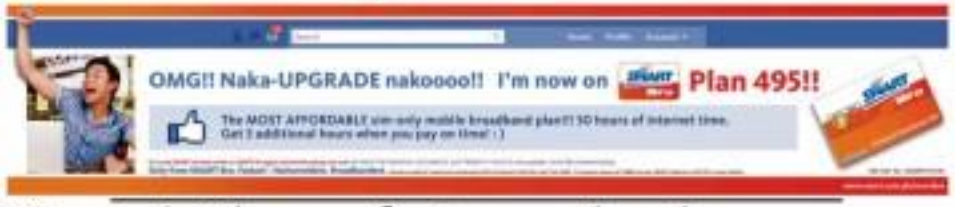

Wanted: The perfect preschool

I don't ever want my son to think he'll owe his greatness to a school, when in fact, without his working at it, it would never have happened

By Margarita Y. Locsin-Claus
Contributor

MANILA, PHILIPPINES—There was a time when such kids as mine were of play school by the time they're a year old, it became imperative that we send our two-year-old to "school" way before we would have had we stayed in London.

Thanks to a supportive group of new friends and acquaintances, my husband and I came up with a list of recommended day care centers, preschools, international schools and enrichment centers, and it was my job to go and inspect every one.

To my surprise, even in a picture-perfect place like Singapore, where the standards are incredibly high, there were places where, to put it mildly, I wouldn't send the child of my worst enemy.

Some of the so-called top schools were nice to look at on the outside, but on closer scrutiny lacked close facilities (in my obsessive-compulsive mindset, which I believe is not uncommon, risk) and in some cases, were like corrals, filled with wild ponies. I could already envision my little boy jumping over their rock-an-all cuff fence without any one noticing and running into the path of an oncoming car.

"No, no, no," in my not-like-in my, those were not the places for him.

The places that did catch my eye, and where I will likely be registering my son for a place, were those that made a positive impression on me and my

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Wanted: The perfect preschool

From page D1

son—who, through his experience and exertion in the schools and the people we met, was choosing his school without even knowing it.

We want a school that's done. It's not because I'm OC that I've mentioned this first. It's because my son's month is very important to me, and if I can help it, I will make sure the school I send him to is as clean as the home I keep for him.

Schools should ensure that toys, play areas and classrooms are drained after each use and that toilets are kept free from water splashes around the sinks and on the floors. This means the cleaning staff has to be vigilant and not just when "everything looks nice," as dictated in those little checklists usually posted behind the bathroom doors.

Clean toilets are particularly important for kids of my son's age. Since many of them are losing potty-trained, school policies should be abandoned after each child's use and supplied with cut linens toilet paper.

I went to one school whose toilets were so filthy (it was in the middle of the school day, but still), I didn't want to mention the name. My son's rash was never going to touch those things.

Conversely, I went to a preschool that was so clean, there was not one strand of hair on the floor. I toured their classrooms during class hours and it was clear that cleanliness was not just because they had an efficient cleaning staff, but because it was being impressed in their students, as well. I was so happy. My son was going to learn to be as OC as me.

Make kids feel important

We went to a school that makes our kids feel important. I visited one of the oldest international schools in Singapore and the one thing I liked about them was how they made my son feel important.

During the tour, the admissions person referred to my son as if he were already a student and took the time to take us to parts of the school that he would encounter (more than a decade from now). Clearly, this was an orientation that wanted my son to want and feel his schooling with them, not one that saw him as a transient expat child.

This impression stayed with me throughout my search and became my personal benchmark for the other schools I toured. Of the half dozen schools I visited, only one disappointed me and this was because they made me feel as if it were a privilege for my son to be at their school—an attitude I totally disagree with.

I think schools should feel privileged to have our kids. When they do something brilliant or outstanding, it is their success first, and the school's, second.

I don't ever want my son to think he will owe his greatness to a school, when in fact, without his working at it...it would never have happened. I think most schools forget that they are there to enable and guide our children. Instead, they focus on getting awards and winning championship titles.

Sth' sexist teachers who rave. I don't know what the vetting process is for pre-school teachers, but it shouldn't just be their chirpiness.

Being a happy person who can sing and dance is one thing, but having a truly child-oriented mindset is another. I want my son to a program recently where some of the students did not know how to make my son, who had just moved from another continent, feel at home.

During our activity, he was made to use the word "noodle" to get his share of some instant noodles the teachers were giving out. My son looked at the trash, or blankly while smacking his lips (for lovers instant noodles), but as he couldn't say the word, she just shipped over him and proceeded to work on the other kids.

Not all the kids could say "noodle," but they were all given their share. My son saw this and cried hysterically. What inadequate manners seems, was that seeing them was an either trip, the teacher didn't ask who hadn't gotten theirs but rather, concerned it herself—and quite happily so!

The times moved my son to another class, one led by a lovely woman who allows him to grow and is very considerate of his lack of exposure to other kids. My son is never forgotten, never neglected, and he doesn't cry in class anymore.

We want a school that's global. In today's world, it's not enough to be good just on a local level; we have to be global in mindset, in knowledge and in exposure.

I was privileged to have taken the international baccalaureate program when I was in high school (although admittedly, I did not feel privileged then), as it came as a shock to me that all the international schools offered it one just in high school, but also Prep preschool onwards.

I don't subscribe to my Filipino schools are behind the times 100 drop. I guess I've said it), but don't you think it's time to get some really important sensibilities—like those that are aimed by acknowledged and accepted worldwide?

When I was back last, I noticed an influx of "international" schools (in my time, we were one of a handful). It may do them, as well as some of the old, re-established but more behind the times schools, as well as check out the IB's website (http://www.ibo.org) and find out how to be truly (and not just in a PR sense) world-class.

Latin Women's Club holds charity ball

EVERY MAN, THE LATIN Women's Club holds its Charity Latin Ball on Cuba Latina. Over 300 guests get together to enjoy the real Latin spirit with the best music, live and recorded, great food, new dancing shoes, elegance and fashion, and all share it all with good hearts, who help raise funds to support their charitable projects.

All the money the Club in Forum Latinas collect from this event and throughout the year are given to the Holy Family Home in Pandacan and Angeles Rosales Itinerary in Pandacan that for years have taken care of many Filipino children, who are less fortunate.

Right now there are women from almost all countries of Latin America, the Caribbean, Spain and Italy and four of them from Japan, Belgium and other countries. Their common denominator: they all speak Spanish as native-born or near-native language.

The Latin Women's Club has become a key social network for newcomers, who generously share their words of wisdom in topics that cover a wide range of information, from where to buy a good cake or fit an appliance, to the recommended pharmacies or health specialist.

With this party, the Latin Ladies also celebrate the 1st eve of Filipino musicians.

They know that Latin music is easy to appreciate but not easy to play. They received two awards to learn that on the other side of the globe musicians like Gloria Latina, from the Philippines can play as good as the original, big names such as Ricky Martin, Juanes, Shakira. Thus Filipino artist can reproduce Latino dances such as Guaguancó, that not even all Latinos can dance. They rely on local talent, carefully chosen, to make the ambiance that the ladies have manage to set. Last year, for example, where the party was beginning to fade, 300 audiences appeared from nowhere, attracted by the guests and friends and fellow fans into a relax and fun way to dance passed 3 a.m. The Latin way is always an excuse to have fun, always a reason to help others, as it happens that they are in a country where "their way" is appreciated and admired. Why not see if it awards a good cause?

So there are ways to choose a party, and there is the Latin way.

Losing more than just a phone

IF YOU LOSE YOUR CELLULAR PHONE and you have a post-paid line, ask your service provider to deactivate your number immediately or you may lose more than just your phone.

An Inquirer employee found this out recently after his phone fell out of his pocket on his way home. He realized he didn't have it and got many calls—text messages, he did not receive his phone was gone until the next day.

In fact, he only found out he had lost it when his network called up to tell him he owe close to P10,000 on his credit limit because of all the downloads (ringtones, wallpapers, etc.—"fun" stuffs in less than 12 hours. Because the time his phone fell out of his pocket and the next morning, the finder had downloaded stuff amounting to about P1,000.

Again really, the person who found his phone was not content with his/her good fortune but also decided to award himself/herself a bonus. He/she took advantage of the post-paid line by downloading everything he/she could think of. The person probably tried to check the load balance of the phone and found out it was actually a post-paid line. So, before changing the SIM (subscriber identity module) card which I am sure he/she had done by now the finder downloaded whatever he/she was interested in.

This is similar to losing a credit card. The person who steals or finds it immediately uses it for one of his/her usually high-ticket items—before the loss is reported and the is using both cannels it.

Incidentally, the owner of the phone was wondering if people would be encouraged to return found things if telecommunication companies, for instance, had designated places where finders would just drop things they found. He still would like to believe that if returning stuff was made more convenient, like by having lost-and-found centers many people would be encouraged to return things.

He did not think his phone would really be of great interest to the finder since he was not one of the fancy models. He believed the finder would have been more inclined to return it if the load was made more convenient for him/her.

Of course, I am more skeptical. Even some mental establishments seem to have abandoned the practice of having a lost-and-found and recovery probably because while people are still reporting lost things, few, if any, are handing over found items. But who cares? Many for the boy-next-guy's optimism is not congenital.

Monthly trash-to-cash market

Keep aiming those scrap paper and cardboard, empty ink toner cartridges, plastic bottles and scraps, used load batteries from cars, aluminum, the neat and many other items. The SM supermalls continue to host recycling markets every first Friday and Saturday of the month. So the next recycling markets will be on June 4-5.

Even if you do not have anything to sell, you may want to visit just to find out what kind of trash you can sell. The markets accept things that other junk dealers may not buy so they are worth checking out. Visit the SM supermall nearest you next month, first Friday and Saturday of June, and see for yourself.

The SM Trash to Cash initiative, which is open to everyone, aims to encourage shoppers to reduce waste and earn money at the same time. Through the program, shoppers not only help to save the environment by recycling, but also help keep schools clean. Part of the proceeds from the monthly activity is used to buy trash containers that are donated to different public schools. It is hoped that, by giving public schools enough waste receptacles and teaching students to dispose of garbage properly, young people all over the country will learn the habit of proper waste disposal.

Launched three years ago, the Trash to Cash program has enabled SM supermalls to save 20,000 7-year-old trees, recycle almost 900 tons of waste and save as much as 4,211 cubic meters in landfill space, at the same time, it has generated P19 million for those who have benefited from the activity.

The initiative earned the SM chain the title Champion for Resource Recycle in the Ten Outstanding Citizens Awards during the Earth Day celebration at the SM Mall of Asia complex. Environment Inc. Heinrich C. Hasbon (center) of the award, which was part of the Department of Environment and Natural Resources' (DENR) program that recognized best practices in waste management and also gauged compliance with Republic Act 9003 or the Ecological Solid Waste Management Act.

Send letters to The Consumer, Lifestyle Section, Philippine Daily Inquirer, 5th Floor, Inquirer Annex, Inquirer Compound, Yuchengco Complex, 1204 Makati City, fax 897-8792/93, or e-mail lbdeleon@inquirer.com.ph.

THE CONSUMER
Linda B. Bolido

SLIMMING Mud Therapy is body-contouring blend of minerals and chocolate, which provides an intensive appreciation of the body's metabolism. It also detoxifies, exfoliates and nourishes skin.

Mag receives Gawad Tanglaw Lifetime Achievement Award

MEN MAGAZINE RECENTLY received the 2009 Gawad Tanglaw Lifetime Achievement Award for Print Media Magazine Category. Gawad Tanglaw (Tagalog mga Alaalimuyan ng Aalinog Komagalaw) presented the award at 6:00 at the Jose Reid University opening grounds.

Now on its eighth year, the Gawad Tanglaw considered as one of the most prestigious awards for the arts, recognized MEN for surviving as an exemplary print medium for information and entertainment for 16 years now.

Cynthia Santiago, editor-in-chief, received the Gawad Tanglaw Award for MEN.

No-stress fat-busting therapies

BLUEWATER DAY SPA OFFERS NO-stress slimming therapies that allow customers to lie down, relax and enjoy soothing, belly-busting body pampering.

Vibrant Meridian Fire Therapy is a 50-minute slimming massage that uses fire to burn unwanted and unsightly fat deposits. The body is massaged using a traditional Tibetan concoction to break down fatty deposits. It is then carefully wrapped and set on fire to "melt" the deposit and allow it to be naturally eliminated by the body.

Meanwhile, the Slimming Mud Therapy is a body-contouring blend of minerals and chocolate, which provides an intense appreciation of the body's metabolism. It also detoxifies, exfoliates and nourishes skin.

The spa's signature Cellulite Melter Massage promotes a strong diuretic property that treats the body of fluid retention and consumes cellulite. It detoxifies the skin and body and stimulates the production of collagen to promote hormonal balance.

Since it helps break down fats, the therapy leaves the body firmer, helping keep muscles toned and the skin elastic.

Blue Water Day Spa has branches in Ortigas Center (Ground Floor, Medical City Professional Office 1, Meralco Ave.), Makati City (G/F Regina Palm Condominium, 140 de la Rosa St., cor. Nicea St., Legaspi Village, Makati City), Eastwood Orchard Cyberpark Libis, Capitol Hills Quezon City and Tomas Morato, Quezon City (Ser. Barangaz cor. Tomas Morato).

TIBETAN Meridian Fire Therapy is a 50-minute slimming massage that uses fire to burn unwanted and unsightly fat deposits.

2 magazines tackle parenting and health issues

BE AN EMPOWERED mom and bring out the achiever in a child with practical tips on brain-building power.

Know the difference between a fad's simple remedy ache and unpredictable illness. Health Magazine's May-June 2010 now available in bookstores, newsstands and drugstores.

In this issue, fashion princess and fitness advocate Tessa Prieto-Valdes lives it to us her unique mothering style and her family's penchant for sports. Daily duties with dieting for three ways they can help their kids be healthy, happy and smart.

Decode baby's body language, learn to speak his language and respond appropriately to baby's smile, smirk or squirming eyes.

The latest issue of Health Today also addresses avoiding cancer in a step-by-step guide on staying cancer-free through a healthy diet and lifestyle. And for couples looking to save their marriage, find out if a couples' retreat via escaping together on a journey of rediscovery will do the job.

The month of May is made special as we honor all Mothers and express gratitude for the hardships they had to bear in bringing us up.

With imagination and creativity, celebrating Mother's Day can be a healthy, unique, and fun activity for the family.

Stay informed about the latest news, developments, and innovations on the health front. In the May issue, celebrity mom Rhian Ramos shares the fun and challenging moments of motherhood. Find out how to make a child's first day free of the jitters. Fight the enemy within, learn about stomach parasites that can harm a child's normal and physical health.

Avoid painful spasms in maintaining an active life by learning about muscle cramps.

To make the mother's month more endearing, do something unheard of with mom, such as booking a hot-air balloon ride. Nothing can be more uplifting than floating through the sky as you're so called while enjoying a breathtaking scenery below.

All these and more in the May issue of Mama Today and Health Today Magazine.

Available in all leading bookstores, newsstands and selected supermarkets and drugstores nationwide! Call 886-0333 loc. 112 for subscription.

Fellows of UST National Criticism Workshop bared

THE UNIVERSITY OF SANTO TOMAS has announced the acceptance of the following young critics to the 2nd J. Elizalde Navarro Workshop in Criticism on the Arts and the Humanities: Ariel Paul G. Fabamante (UP Los Baños), Armand D. Balboda (Ateneo de Davao), UP Diliman), Mary Jewel B. Basan (UP Diliman), Anne Christine Fresnoza (Ateneo de Manila), Lois Miguel Lorenzo (Ateneo), Anne Lawrence (UP), Marian Mendoza (Ateneo de Manila), Ryza Cenidoza (UP Los Baños), Cris La Torre (University of Santo Tomas), and Frank Lloyd S. Tangson (UP Diliman).

The Criticism Workshop, running on May 23-29 in Pililla, Rizal, is organized by the Varsitarian, the UST paper with official student organ of UST. It is held in honor of the late National Artist for the Visual Arts and Art Critic J. Elizalde Navarro, who was an editor and critic-poet of the Varsitarian during his undergraduate years, and in connection with the 400th anniversary of UST in 2011.

The fellows are expected to get in touch with assistant professor Ralph Galan (cell. 0920-9256009; e-mail ralphcarlogalan@gmail.com).

Sto. Niño de Faire's Mass in Ermita Church

The parishioners of Sto. Niño de Faire residing in Metro Manila will hold a Misa de Gallo (Christmas Dawn Mass) on May 23, 2 p.m., at the Archdiocesan Shrine of Revista Bellevue Dasa (Ermita Church). Fr. Bobi Balaoro, parish priest of Sto. Niño de Faire, Cagayan Valley will celebrate the Holy Mass. Faire, the old name of the town, was changed to Sto. Niño de Faire in the 1950s, according to Rodolfo Tangaro, a prominent resident of the town. Formerly Bisaya at 09:0 - ASTITU An earlier Mass at 5:30 a.m. on May 23 will be celebrated at the Our Lady of the Poor Parish in Sampaguita St., FB Tavarnet, West Riverside, Taguig. Text Lory Mary at 0916-8819665 Fr. Mulana is appealing for help in the reconstruction of the church in Sto. Niño de Faire, Cagayan Valley.

Storytelling workshop

Learn how to tell stories that will captivate children at a five-day storytelling workshop that will be held May 24-28, 8 a.m.-5 p.m. at the home of the Lord Donation Assembly (DF) Platoon Building 1003 Princeton St. corner Shaw Boulevard Mandaluyong City).

The workshop, which is ideal for parents, teachers and volunteers for children's ministries, will be facilitated by Jose Salonga, a special education teacher with a background in theater. She recently led similar storytelling workshops at the Philippine Normal University and A Brazen's Foundation in Baguio City. The P3,000 workshop fee includes lunch and snacks for all five days of the workshop. Call 7749120 or 0922-8716819.

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1-Bedroom Suite	4 persons	18,900	P6,615
2-Bedroom Suite	6 persons	31,500	P9,450
FOREST VIEW			
Superior Rooms w/ balcony	2 persons	10,500	P3,990
Deluxe Rooms w/ balcony	2 persons	14,700	P5,035
1-Bedroom Suite	4 persons	21,000	P6,150
2-Bedroom Suite	6 persons	31,500	P9,450

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Fun run to promote healthy lifestyle for kids

GONE ARE THE DAYS WHEN ONLY Road Runner and Wile E. Coyote were the only ones doing the running, jumping, and all kinds of moving in the Looney Tunes world.

The Tasmanian devil might have done some serious spinning, but Bugs Bunny was usually seen chomping on carrots and asking Doc what's up. Tweety, while being constantly schemed upon by Sylvester, was more of a messenger and not so much an object inside his cage. Not anymore.

Master Bros. Consumer Products (MBCP) launched the Looney Tunes Activez! program to support global efforts to promote an active and healthier lifestyle for children.

Due to its success in Europe where it was first launched, the Looney Tunes Activez! program is now being implemented in the Philippines, Thailand, Indonesia, Singapore, Malaysia, Vietnam, Hong Kong and China.

In 2009, MBCP, through its Philippine agent, Global Brands Group, launched a school tour where a running clinic was conducted by locally renowned coach Bio de la Cruz, in partnership with the Physical Education and Sports Clubs of participating schools in Metro Manila.

This culminated with the first Looney Tunes Activez! Fun Run in SM Mall of Asia in 2009. The event was attended by almost 1,000 participants.

This year, MBCP will launch a sequel to the Looney Tunes Activez! Fun Run in SM Megamall on May 29, and SM City Cebu on June 5.

Acting as race directors are Bio dela Cruz, Bodi Evora (ex-Boston Musclebar), and Noy Aquino, Philippines Iron Man.

To register, proceed to the following Shoes store branches: SM Megamall, from April 26-May 22, for the 10M Megamall race; Ayala Center Cebu and Ilocos Republic, SM Cebu, April 26-May 20, SM Cebu Race.

Kids get a discount or P200 for the 500m dash.

Until May 30, 2011, a minimum P800 purchase of Looney Tunes premiums in all SM Department Stores Character Shops will entitle one to a free Looney Tunes Activez! race singlet.

CIGNAL and SONY in Full HD

Mr. Edsel Hurtado (third from left), President and Managing Director, Sony Philippines, shakes hands with Mrs. Mary J. Espinosa, President & CEO of MediaScape Inc. signing for the Sony Cignal Full on HD promo. Mr. Hurtado is flanked by (from left to right) Mr. Christian Wannemuehler, Marketing Officer for Sony BRAVIA/ IBM and Mr. Larry Sanchez, Director for National Sales, Sony Philippines. Mrs. Espinosa is flanked by (from left to right) Mr. Manjo Fernandez, Managing Director of MediaScape Inc. and Ms. Grisgonil Arbo, Head of Marketing, MediaScape Inc.

To bring the experience of HDTV entertainment into every Filipino home, Sony Philippines and Cignal HD have entered into a partnership that will open your senses to the wonder and excitement of unbelievably real images and amazingly crisp sound.

From April 30 until June 30, a single purchase of Sony BRAVIA* will make customers eligible to buy a Cignal HD Kit for PHP1,500. That gives you savings of up to PHP5,000! This promotional Cignal HD kit comes with the satellite dish, set-up box, and a Cignal card.

Imagine just how jaw-dropping your favourite blockbuster would be, in its full HD glory, with Cignal HD providing content viewed on the awe-inspiring LCD screen of a Sony BRAVIA HDTV. With Cignal HD's exciting roster of HD channels, including HBO HD, Disc Worlds HD, National Geographic HD, History HD, PlayHouse Disney, ESPN, Star Sports, and Sony Entertainment Television, you have access to the most number of HD channels currently available anywhere in the Philippines.

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Hurry to the nearest Sony Centers and authorized Sony dealers nationwide to find out how you can avail of the ultimate in HD entertainment. Enjoy the startling realism and clarity of true high definition with the Sony Cignal HD Full On HD Experience today!

See posters and print ads for complete details of the promo or visit www.cignal.tv and www.sony.com.ph.

* Applicable only to current BRAVIA models

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ENTERTAINMENT

Editor Ernesto G. Velarde

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Charice sets baptism date; we're godparents

By the Entertainment Staff

DAVID FOSTER WAS MISTY-EYED during the May 11 episode of "The Oprah Winfrey Show" when his new friend, Oranice Pangonguy, launched her US debut album.

The famed record producer-composer was in the audience as Winfrey introduced the 18-year-old Pinay international pop star. When Oranice was asked to speak, he said, "Probably the most extraordinary thing that's happened to Charice and I is, today, I got a letter from her asking me to be her godfather."

Foster was referring to the singer's church baptism and confirmation, set May 22 at the Pasig Cathedral. The reception will include a soup kitchen for some children.

Oranice (who's on the list 9th) and Tim Foster's Toronto friends and Peabody Conservatory will be Foster's...and presumably Oprah's—nursery and kindergarten. Amazing! But that's along with about four dozen other people.

Politics out of place

On the results show of "Pilipinas Got Talent" last Sunday, Bro. Eduardo, one of three Judges, thanked the Iglesia Ni Kristo for delivering 4 million votes for her brother, Senator Noynoy.

And then, in a line appropriately attributable only to the opposite non-president's closest official spokesperson (emphasis on "future"), the controversial TV host and popular product endorser said, "Mabuhisan po kayo. Iyan sisi ay patuloy naming pakikiisa at taimong mga adhikain. (You can count on our continued support for your aspirations)."

CHANCE U

FRIDAY	MAY 21
Sapul!	5:00 AM
Pre-School Shows	7:00 AM
Nick on TV5	8:30 AM
Face to Face	11:00 AM
Don't Cry My Love	11:45 AM
First Wives' Club	12:30 PM
Smile Honey	1:15 PM
High Kick!	2:00 PM
Hi-5	2:30 PM
Oggy and the Cockroaches	3:00 PM
Street Fighter	3:30 PM
Battle Spirits	4:00 PM
Nick on TV5	4:30 PM
Hero	6:00 PM
My Wife is a Superwoman	6:30 PM
Easy Fortune Happy Life	7:00 PM
House or Not	7:30 PM
Midnight DJ	8:30 PM
Aksyon	9:30 PM
Lupet	10:00 PM
Face to Face	10:30 PM
Juicy	11:30 PM
Jojo A All the Way	12:00 MN

At the Cinemas
GLORIETTA 4
GREENBELT 1
GREENBELT 2
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TRINOMA
MARKET! MARKET!
AYALA CENTER CEBU
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Activity Center
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Glorietta Activity Center
GREENBELT
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May 21: Activity Center
MARKET! MARKET!
Mind Makeovers Cubicle Game
May 28-June 16, Activity Center
TRINOMA
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STA. LUCIA EAST GRAND MALL
THEATRE
1 THE LAST SONG
2 ROBIN HOOD
3 IRON MAN 2
4 LITTLE BIG SOLDIER
5 AMERICAN VIRGIN
6 HERE COMES THE BRIDE
7 A NIGHTMARE ON ELM STREET
8 IRON MAN 2 (2D)

WILLIE: Decision coming up!

Charice sets . . .

From page B1

There were more such subtle, crazy sightsee out of place in the salon these Totally.

Wish for Willie

If, as Willie Revillame says, his job as "Wowowee" host has ensured to be a source of security, our wish is for him to find what will make him as happy, content and enthusiastic as before.

He no longer has to worry anymore about the show, as the girls—Pokwang, Maricel, Valerie—are doing fine on their own, honestly cool to our surprise, admirably.

As we write, we've also enjoyed for two straight episodes the replacement host, Robin Padilla. He brings out the best in Maricel, in fact. They have this little routine going that's quite engaging. Twice in as many days, Robin's set to do a full two weeks, maybe more.

Will he?

Speaking of Willie, the controversial host, who vacationed in Macau last week, greeted TV5's "Pagsasama" last Sunday a surprise interview.

Host Ginny Ferrin said she believed Willie would give up his P25-million pay check for peace of mind. Co-host Mr. Tuviera bet Willie would return to the hit noontime show. Tuviera called agreeing to disagree.

SHOCKER? Bernie "Pancancil."

Online ramblings

And speaking of leaving Aquit from the Facebook group dubbed "Kris Aquino's Despedida," there are other online campaigns calling for, get this, the crucifixion of Aquino's friend Boy Abunda and the immaculate assumption of Willie Revillame from "Wowowee."

Back to the quirks

Preshaven suffers punished after Donna Sue vanished from the set. Turns out Ms. nonsense for music behavior, is back to her old ways.

She allegedly disappeared for days with Former Iconic doing drugs and hanging everyone in the dark about where she was.

After a few days, Mr reportedly turned up in a hospital.

Friend and family

Without Queen thought she could carry on with her prime-time woes. She reportedly screamed off the set of a TV show because she was unhappy with the script. Kudos to her for that.

But the tantrum resulted in ruined event equipment and sales expenses for the studio, who promptly fired Ms.

Dirty tactics shop

Donna Aston has learned the tricks of the trade. So as not to appear nonchalantly, Ms declined to comment on allegations made by Former Girlfriend.

Ms manager, however, heralded a black propaganda against PG. The manager paid a planter to spread unproven gossip about the poor girl.

—

Top of the talk shows

For those who missed last weekend's goldmine on TV (and why we are tossed, if we are married):

• Smoky Serna, paranoid

"I have a lot of friends and relatives who are 'batchi.' I openly show them my affection and people see that. For me, it's no big deal. I am myself as paranoid." (Noted.)

• Ms Tuviera on hosting GMA 7:

"We're living in trust, may 'thank you.'" (Noted reader?)

• Kris Aquino on major career changes:

"After June 30, there are many many changes, but changes na magsasabi po sa inyo kung dadal po. I love this country like more than that. I really love my family." (Ah, moments precious and few.)

• Willie Revillame, after taking his latest "Wowowee" suntrum:

"Makalawa: sumali ng labas ang ano-ang magiging desisyon ko... may isasabog pandesisyon dyan. At... ano-ano'ng dahilan mka kung ano pa ang gusto kong gawin o hindi na... Marami akong dapat na gawing desisyon at bukas ko pinag-usapan ko labas. Kung happy ibinibalandra ang sarili ko." (And obviously, messages, but ibinalandra ang mo ba.)

—Gerry Flores

(Starwell, The Boss, Paparazzi and Abandon coming)

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CINEMA 1 THE LAST SONG

CINEMA 2 ROBIN HOOD

metro manila

SM NORTH EDSA
1 ROBIN HOOD
2 IRON MAN 2
3 KICK ASS
4 A NIGHTMARE ON ELM STREET
5 HERE COMES THE BRIDE

SM MALL OF ASIA
1 ROBIN HOOD
2 A NIGHTMARE ON ELM STREET
3 IRON MAN 2
4 LITTLE BIG SOLDIER
5 THE LAST SONG
6 HERE COMES THE BRIDE
7 KICK ASS
8 THE BOUNTY HUNTER

MEGAMALL
1 IRON MAN 2
2 THE LAST SONG
3 A NIGHTMARE ON ELM STREET
4 ROBIN HOOD
5 LITTLE BIG SOLDIER
6 HERE COMES THE BRIDE
7 KICK ASS
8 THE BOUNTY HUNTER

SM CITY SAN MATEO
1 ROBIN HOOD
2 IRON MAN 2
3 KICK ASS
4 A NIGHTMARE ON ELM STREET
5 HERE COMES THE BRIDE

SM CITY BACOOR
1 ROBIN HOOD
2 IRON MAN 2
3 HERE COMES THE BRIDE
4 A NIGHTMARE ON ELM STREET
5 THE LAST SONG
6 LITTLE BIG SOLDIER
7 KICK ASS
8 THE BOUNTY HUNTER

SM CITY BICUTAN
1 ROBIN HOOD
2 IRON MAN 2
3 A NIGHTMARE ON ELM STREET
4 HERE COMES THE BRIDE
5 THE LAST SONG
6 LITTLE BIG SOLDIER
7 KICK ASS
8 THE BOUNTY HUNTER

SM CITY FAIRVIEW
1 LITTLE BIG SOLDIER
2 A NIGHTMARE ON ELM STREET
3 HERE COMES THE BRIDE
4 ROBIN HOOD
5 IRON MAN 2
6 THE LAST SONG
7 KICK ASS
8 THE BOUNTY HUNTER

SM CITY SAN LAZARO
1 ROBIN HOOD
2 IRON MAN 2
3 A NIGHTMARE ON ELM STREET
4 HERE COMES THE BRIDE
5 KICK ASS
6 THE LAST SONG
7 LITTLE BIG SOLDIER
8 THE BOUNTY HUNTER

SM CITY EAST MESA
1 LITTLE BIG SOLDIER
2 ROBIN HOOD
3 A NIGHTMARE ON ELM STREET
4 IRON MAN 2
5 HERE COMES THE BRIDE
6 THE LAST SONG
7 KICK ASS
8 THE BOUNTY HUNTER

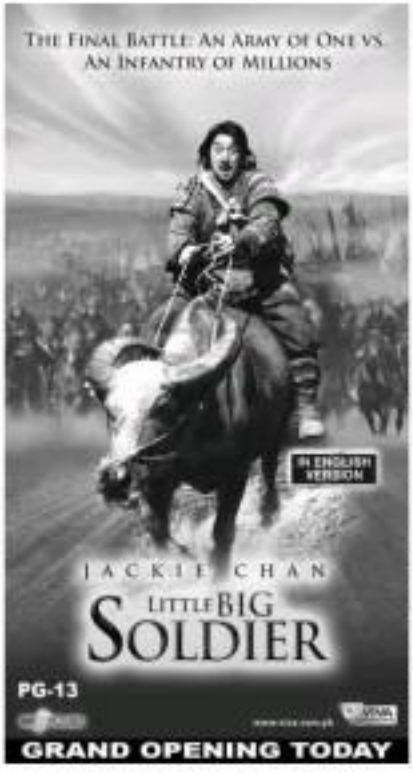
SM CITY NORTH EDSA
1 ROBIN HOOD
2 IRON MAN 2
3 A NIGHTMARE ON ELM STREET
4 HERE COMES THE BRIDE
5 THE LAST SONG
6 LITTLE BIG SOLDIER
7 KICK ASS
8 THE BOUNTY HUNTER

SM CITY MARILAO
1 ROBIN HOOD
2 IRON MAN 2
3 A NIGHTMARE ON ELM STREET
4 HERE COMES THE BRIDE
5 THE LAST SONG
6 LITTLE BIG SOLDIER
7 KICK ASS
8 THE BOUNTY HUNTER

SM CITY BALIWAG
1 ROBIN HOOD
2 IRON MAN 2
3 A NIGHTMARE ON ELM STREET
4 HERE COMES THE BRIDE
5 THE LAST SONG
6 LITTLE BIG SOLDIER
7 KICK ASS
8 THE BOUNTY HUNTER

SM CITY BICUTAN
1 ROBIN HOOD
2 IRON MAN 2
3 A NIGHTMARE ON ELM STREET
4 HERE COMES THE BRIDE
5 THE LAST SONG
6 LITTLE BIG SOLDIER
7 KICK ASS
8 THE BOUNTY HUNTER

**SM CITY CLARK



Opening This Week

Dolores

Directed by Lito Casaje; stars Lara Sanservilano, Rolli Cabalen, Dido de la Paz, Hilda Cornejo, Amante Pelido, Joseph Sanza

A 14-year-old barrio lass (Sanservilano) is torn between familial duty and her blossoming sensuality. This coming-of-age drama was an entry in the Digital Lokal section of the 11th Cinemanila International Film Festival. Cassie reports that the film, shot in a remote village in Mindanao, Pampanga, almost didn't push through. "The original actress backed out. Lara had to take over at the last minute." Exclusively in Robinsons Galleria.

American Virgin

Directed by Chaz Kilmer; stars Jenna Dewan, Rob Schneider, Brianne Davis, Chaz Ryan, Su Surobaso

Conservative coed (Dewan) gets drunk and strips in a sexy video. She then runs after the producer to retrieve the tape. Hyperpure.ph's Darrel Sempajpit says: "The lead stars all bounce off one another quite well." DVDTalk.com's Tyler Nurse notes: "It's surprisingly better (read: mediocre-er) than one would expect." DVDVerdict.com's Patrick Bromley asserts: "It's stunned with sex . . . beyond juvenile."

JACKIE Chan and Wang Leehom

Little Big Soldier

Directed by Sheng Ding; stars Jackie Chan, Ritwe Tse, Lin Peng, Wang Leehom, Ha Song, Wu Sen, Bu Yuming, Xu Dongmei

Lowly soldier (Chan) takes an enemy general (Leehom) hostage and goes on a road trip so he can claim a plot of land. Twitch.com's James Mudd calls it a "finely made . . . a very enjoyable slice of fun." Screen Daily's Ben Nicholas describes it as a "low-key reflection on the pointlessness of war." Variety's Derek Elley relates: "The action is nimble, but unmemorable, and the chemistry between the two leads [are] sharp."

PRINCESS Fiona and Shrek

Shrek Forever After

Directed by Mike Mitchell; with the voices of Mike Myers, Cameron Diaz, Antonio Banderas, Eddie Murphy, Julie Andrews, Amy Poehler

Shrek (Myers) travels to an alternate universe where he isn't a hero and Harry Potter-land remains unpressed. The Hollywood Reporter's Frank Scheck thinks it's "finally time to let Shrek and Fiona live happily ever after." Box Office Magazine's Pete Hammond differs: "It's hilarious and boasts fun start to finish." Colliderstop.com's Cole Smithey concurs: "Although its 3-D effects seem retrievous, the episode would rise above mediocrity if it were enjoyably spontaneous." Opens tomorrow.

GARFIELD — BY JIM DAVIS

A-LUPIN — BY JOEL MERCADA

PUGAD BABOY — BY PUGAD JUNIOR

DICK TRACY

LOVEBANATS — BY ELIZABETH CHIONGLO

JAMES BOND

DIVINE COMEDY — BY STEVEN PAGULAYAN

BABY BLUES — BY JERRY SCOTT

TULOOK — BY MARK COLL

BEN — BY DARREL SHELTON

KISO MACHINE — BY MARIO ARREZA

SHERMAN'S LAGOON — BY JIM TOOMEY

HOROSCOPE

BY FRANCIS DRAKE

ARIES (March 21-April 19) The movements with a steady hand will be rewarding today. It's perfect, someone will introduce you to some female friends. Personality improves about future goals with interest.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20) Some aspect of your private life might be conflicting for many positive today, especially with lovers, parents, business and VIPs. You also realize the value for the sense of duty.

GEMINI (May 21-June 20) Tend to pressure in a busy day-to-day today. Some of your insights make it some major decisions happen, you tend to learn more about the unconscious your emotional world.

CANCER (June 21-July 22) The romance must be to share something or fulfilled a certain amount of money will be very successful for today. People are a favored to cooperate.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22) This is a good day to talk to your parents and brothers and sisters. Your relationship will improve. There is a good chance of success in the day, so make early.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22) You might suggest improvements in your work today. Romance is favored. Your social contacts will enhance the appearance of others. You seem to be passionate and tolerant to others.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22) This is a positive. Financial matters are favored today. Some of your plans will go smoothly. Romantic ties, sports events and leisure time will please Mother.

SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21) Family discussions can go smoothly today. In particular, discussion about money, design a collaborating might become one.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21) This is a good day to work on a hobby, artistic and private activities. Be careful when you are in a good mood. Don't overdo in the day, so make early.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19) This is a good day for business and financial matters. Be careful when you are in a good mood. Don't overdo in the day, so make early.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18) You have a good day for business and financial matters. Be careful when you are in a good mood. Don't overdo in the day, so make early.

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20) Today is a beautiful day. Be careful when you are in a good mood. Don't overdo in the day, so make early.

CONCEPTIS SU DOKU

HOW TO PLAY SU DOKU

Fill the grid so that every column, every row and every 3x3 box contains the digits 1 to 9. Tips and go figures at www.sudoku.com

Concepts Sudoku — By Dave Green

		4	6	7	5			
			1			2		
5		8					1	
1	8				4			7
	2						6	
6	5	7						9
9	6		7				3	
7				8	6	5		
			2	3				

Difficulty level: ★★★

CROSSWORD PUZZLE

DOLLY WOOD

Dolly Anne Gerngaz

Aga, Janice proud grandparents of baby boy

AGA MUHLACH AND JANICE de Belen are now proud grandparents to Alejandro Miguel, the firstborn of their love child Igi Boy and his wife Patricia. The little one was born May 16 at 10:11 a.m. Igi's facebook status reads: "They say that every time somebody dies, a child is born. So I thank the Lord who gave his life for the birth of my son."

This Igi Boy has turned into a daddy.

* * *

My heart goes out to my former Pia Magdalena who has been unfairly accused of stealing too much with her daughter Shaina Magdalena's career. Just like any mother, she's just being protective but not to the point of being overdrive.

Pia says, "They think Sweet say in Showbiz Central that I'm hating Paulino Luna removed from the cast of her project with Manong. That's an outright lie."

May Pia's blog, pertains of what's so repeaten here, finally put the issue to rest. She is often misunderstood because, ever. If she's in there his, she's not of shame his. I myself make a conscious of-

ALEJANDRO Miguel, Igi Boy and Patricia Muhlach's firstborn

fort not to live and breathe down his. There's more to life than to have such false shells.

* * *

"My family has been examining why we're being repeatedly interviewed regarding some. Daing we consider a non issue. Some people have been trying to pit Shaina against Paulino Luna and, try as we might, we [can't] figure out why. Comes now GMA's newest outing, the Nine Soweln "Bakit Kay Tagal ng Isavalud," sillom Rommevie-ner, ner from Wee Films released in 1990. Maureen reprises Ms. D's role in the afternoon daily rehash [has yet] to begin taping.

"This is the same project [that] elicited a bit of 'resistance' because the original leading man, ... was JC Tiuseco. As Maureen's manager, I had to remind them that, when we first signed with the network, we agreed she would not take the love team path—which may work for others, and which I have nothing against, but is not in Maco's cards. Plus, the said JC had worked previously in two controversies—stolen, as it was alleged they were their segments swaps.

"At first, that became the angle and we were interviewed about it. Maybe because we answered it straightaway [and] to all honesty, saying] direct was nothing personal behind the move, these same people thought there should be something else to talk about so the show would be promoted.

"At this point, GMA held a screen test to determine who would play opposite Maureen. Mike Tan eventually got the part, which we only found out ... the night before the story conference. We ... found out at the same time that Bolzon was also in the cast as Maureen's character's homeboda.

"And that's when the theories on Maureen's angle [came] into play. Those so-called fights are actually flourishing because some people think this is the way to promote a show.

"[That] couldn't be further from the truth. Before the story con, I spoke with people in charge of production and pleaded with them to not start on the wrong foot. The shows that Maureen has been a part of have always been consistent raters because of this work [that] everyone puts in ... and not because of things gimmicky. They [agreed] with me and, as a matter of fact, said they would advise everyone else to...

...ndered me to resume to rationalize.

"As the story on-progress, Hiatt was interviewed by GMA [crowd and all the interviewers asked] were questions about Paulino, and they were really forcing her to acknowledge that there was this rift between her and Paulino because she didn't go up to Paulino to say hello. Well, given the situation, Shaina was put in an awkward position. She then repeatedly answered that there was no such thing and one of them kept referring to her possible Paulino. Over and over, Maureen had to acknowledge that her only fault was that she and her friends ... may have just carried away with meeting in a restaurant to...

...late to each other, and that she took full responsibility for that. But [she stressed that Bolzon] wasn't] addressed to any one person."

E-mail: marineg...
fabulous@philstar.com